



# Saipan Tribune

\$1

■ **Club 88 in Garapan temporarily delays closure. PAGE 5**  
 ■ **'Next batch of stimulus cards going to a large group' PAGE 6**

## SEE YOU AT THE TASTE OF THE MARIANAS!

The Garapan Fishing Base will be playing host to the three-day 22nd Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden, which will kick off today, Aug. 27. The festival will begin at 4pm on the first day (Aug. 27) and at 5pm on Aug. 28 and 29, ending at 10pm on all three days. Twenty food and two beverage vendors are confirmed for the festival. Photo taken by licensed commercial drone pilot BJ Eddy. Check out his YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/mydiGis7xwY>.

BJ EDDY

# 3,537 registered voters so far for Precinct 3 election

- » **Deadline to register is Sept. 17**
- » **No one has filed candidacy yet**
- » **Votes will be counted manually**
- » **Absentee voting applications are available online**

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla Igitol said yesterday that voter registration is still ongoing and that the last day to register is Sept. 17. Igitol said absentee voting applications are available online. See **VOTERS** on **Page 4**

## AT A GLANCE

As of 6:37pm, Aug. 26, 2021

### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **77.2%**

Days since last community transmission **156**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	<b>29,267</b>
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>27,781</b>
Moderna	
Initiated:	<b>4,745</b>
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>4,198</b>
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	<b>731</b>

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>9759</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>9,867</b>
Recovered	<b>8,675</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>8,792</b>
Active	<b>822</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>930</b>
Deaths	<b>145</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>145</b>

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>229</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>232</b>
Traced via Travel Screening	<b>192</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>195</b>
Traced via Community Screening	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>
Deaths	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., <https://www.vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/>

## Our indigenous cultures make the Marianas a unique destination

### TOGETHER, WE CAN

By **MIKE SABLAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.



On Aug. 21, more than 30 private and public organizations on Saipan were recognized as they joined the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge campaign that encourages stakeholders to preserve, perpetuate, and promote the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures and traditions.



See **TOGETHER** on **Page 4**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
[ferdie\\_delatorre@saipantribune.com](mailto:ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com)  
 REPORTER

So far, there are now 3,537 registered voters for Precinct 3 for the special election that will be held on Oct. 16 to fill a House of Representatives seat left vacant with the sudden passing of representative Ivan A. Blanco.

## 'No community spread of delta variant in CNMI'

- » **3 more positive cases of COVID-19**
- » **Mariana Resort quarantine site not shut down**

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
[joshua\\_santos@saipantribune.com](mailto:joshua_santos@saipantribune.com)  
 REPORTER

The CNMI Office of the Governor—alongside the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.—is urging

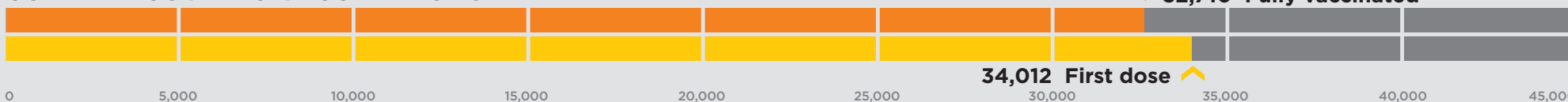
the community to stop spreading misinformation about a recent WhatsApp message that is claiming that the delta variant is already on Saipan and is advising children to stay home. The CNMI's health See **DELTA** on **Page 4**

**COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY**

**LEGEND:**  
■ Red: Least safe  
■ Orange  
■ Yellow  
■ Blue  
■ Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



## INSIDE



### LOCAL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosts a successful Game Day at Your Library last Saturday.

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### NATION

As many as 1,500 Americans may be awaiting evacuation from Afghanistan.

**PAGE 15**



### ASIA

President Rodrigo Duterte has confirmed that he will run next year for vice president.

**PAGE 16**



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Offer available in the CNMI until August 31, 2021. Promotional rates based on 30-month device installments on the NOW program. While supplies last. Subject to credit checks. Some conditions apply.

# Local

## NMTI to reach out to 36 adult high school students

By JOSHUA SANTOS  
joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Thirty-six adult high school students who did not complete their high-school equivalency certification through classes at the former Northern Marianas Trades Institute will soon be called back to complete their certifications, according to Northern Marianas Technical Institute's interim chief executive Jodina Attao.

The plan, which is still in its infancy, is for these 36 students to complete the program through the Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education program. Concerns about these 36 adult students who did not complete their classes were raised during NMTI's appearance at a Senate hearing earlier this month.

Attao said Monday that NMTI, when it was still known as the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, used to offer high school-equivalency classes. Upon completing those classes, its students would be provided certificates equivalent to a high school diploma.

The instructors of these classes and its students became "lost" soon after the closure of NMTI last year due to

the COVID-19 pandemic and in the wake of the school's transition into being recognized as a government institution and its renaming from "trades institute" to "technical institute" as part of the government agreement.

Attao said she has recently met with NMTI's board of trustees to discuss how it will contact these former instructors and the 36 adult students, and added that NMTI and these former instructors will need to coordinate with NMC for these adult students to complete their certification through the college's ABE program.

Attao explained that, with NMTI now a government institution, it now has to comply with a law that outlined that NMTI is not to duplicate services that the CNMI Public School System and/or NMC already offer.

Attao explained that the initiative to recognize NMTI as a government institution began in 2019, and that it took two legislations for the initiative to be completed. The trade school became a government institution and was renamed as the Northern Marianas Technical Institute in February this year.

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## IPI ordered to secure cranes at Garapan construction site

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has issued an order authorizing Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to secure the cranes at its construction site that has become a topic of concern for neighboring businesses.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona ordered IPI to do whatever necessary to secure the cranes.

"IPI may take whatever action is necessary to secure the cranes, including but not limited to removing the turntables, cab jibs, and counterweights, and to secure the property generally from storm damage," she said.

Aside from the securing of cranes, though, Manglona ordered IPI not to engage in any construction activity, pursuant to the stop work order imposed in the lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Labor.

"IPI shall not engage in construction work intended to advance or complete the project except as provided in the First Amended Consent Judgment. IPI shall remain in compliance with all court orders," she said.

In addition, IPI must deposit the estimated labor costs in a United States bank and provide the U.S. Department of Labor secretary with the account information.

"IPI shall deposit the estimated labor costs for securing the cranes (\$25,000) with a United States bank and provide the account information to the [USDOL] secretary before any work begins on the cranes. Provided that IPI complies with the terms of this order, IPI's work in securing the cranes and the property against storm damage is authorized and shall not be considered a violation of the Order Finding Civil Contempt and Imposing a Stop Work Order," Manglona said.

According to a consent judgment between IPI and USDOL, IPI must make monthly payments of \$164,270.08 to USDOL from April 1, 2021, to Dec. 1, 2021, for a total amount of \$1,478,430.72.

IPI has been allowed to delay its September 2021 payment so it can undertake safety work at its construction site in Garapan to secure construction cranes.

To date IPI has made a payment of \$821,350.60, from January to August 2021.



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# Firefighters argue terminations took place before FDA OK'd Pfizer vaccine

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The nine firefighters who were terminated for insubordination after refusing to get vaccinated and are suing the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services and its commissioner, Dennis Mendiola, claim that the recent Food and Drug Administration's approval of the Pfizer vaccine should not affect their case because their terminations took place long before the vaccine's approval.

Joseph Horey, who represents the firefighters, said his clients don't expect the recent FDA approval of the

Pfizer vaccine to have an impact on their lawsuit.

"We don't expect it to impact the lawsuit. The terminations took place long before the approval so they were wrongful[ly terminated] when it occurred. And the approval has no effect on the CNMI Constitution in any event," he said.

In a filed notice of approval of the vaccine, Horey said although the merits of the case remains unaffected, the nature and scope of relief might be.

"While this approval does not affect the substantive merits of the plaintiff's case, which arose before such approval occurred, it may af-

fect the nature and scope of relief the court may order on the instant motion for preliminary injunction," Horey said.

Meanwhile, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho gave a Sept. 7 deadline for each party to submit their proposed orders and additional briefs on the matter. This deadline is a hard deadline and the court will not grant any more extensions because it is extremely important that a decision be made as soon as possible, he said.

"Generally, the court accommodates the parties when they need more time and grants their request for an extension of a deadline. Be-

cause this case has far-reaching ramifications beyond the parties as it also affects the whole CNMI community, it is important that the court issues its decision without unnecessary delay. Therefore, the Sept. 7, 2021, is a hard deadline. There will be no extension. To provide guidance, calm anxieties,

and address concerns for the plaintiffs and defendants as well as the CNMI community it is imperative that the court issues its decision," Camacho said.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## DRT launches online portal for Advance Child Tax Credit Payments

The Department of Finance, Division of Revenue and Taxation would like to notify the public that the CNMI Advance Child Tax Credit Update Portal will launch at 12am (midnight) ChST on Aug. 27, 2021.

### How it works

For tax year 2021, the Child Tax Credit is increased from \$2,000 per qualifying child to \$3,000 per child for dependents ages 6 through 17, and \$3,600 for dependents ages 5 and under.

The Advance Child Tax payments are based on the number of qualifying children on your 2020 return, or your 2019 return if you have not filed yet. Therefore, if your AdvCTC payments exceed your 2021 child tax credit when you file in 2022, you may have to pay back the excess amount.

Advance CTC payments will begin August through December 2021.

### Enrolling and receiving advance CTC payments

You can visit our portal to provide required information at <https://ctcup.dof.gov.mp>. You will need to use your name, Social Security number, and your adjusted gross income from your most recent tax return to log in.

To receive AdvCTC payments,

you must provide the qualifying child's date of birth.

If taxpayers are unable to use the portal, they may use Form AdvCTC, available on the DOF website at <https://www.dof.gov.mp/forms.php> and submit to DRT for processing.

Additionally, the portal will allow taxpayers to submit banking information for direct deposit payments.

### If you don't want to receive payments

If you do not wish to receive the Advance CTC payments because you would rather claim the full credit when you file your 2021 tax return or know you are not eligible, you can unenroll through our portal or submit Form AdvCTC to the Division of

Revenue and Taxation.

Both individuals on a joint return must unenroll to avoid receiving their AdvCTC payment. The spouse who did not unenroll will receive their portion of the payments.

### Qualifying child requirements

The qualifying child must be below 17 before Jan. 1, 2022, they must live with the taxpayer for more than half the tax year, and they must not have provided for more than half of their support and is a U.S. citizen.

For more information about the Advance Child Tax payments, visit the FAQs provided on the DOF website at <https://www.dof.gov.mp/index.php>.

For any questions, contact DRT at 664-1000. (PR)

## CNMI Women's Summit postponed

The Women's Affairs Office and the CNMI Women's Association recently announced that the 8th Annual CNMI Women's Summit—which was originally scheduled for yesterday—has been postponed until further notice due to "a sudden necessary venue change because of ongoing COVID-19 mitigation measures." A new summit date and venue are in the works.

In a statement WAO issued

Wednesday, it was learned that the WAO, CWA, and the summit's planning committee made the executive decision to postpone the event until a new venue is found for the safety and security of the summit's participants, speakers, and presenters. The WAO will update the community on the summit's new date and venue once a new venue has been confirmed. (Joshua Santos)

minded to only share verified, official information from the Task Force and CHCC," said the public advisory.

In related news, three more incoming travelers were confirmed positive for COVID-19, according to the CHCC. The individuals were identified by travel screening and confirmed through fifth-day and arrival testing on Aug. 24. The individuals have been quarantined, and are being monitored. The cases bring the CNMI's total to 232 cases.

CHCC also reported Wednesday that there is currently one active hospitalization related to COVID-19.

As for the quarantine sites, Villagomez explained that the decision to put the Mariana Resort & Spa on standby was made in response to the recent influx of incoming travelers from the United States and Asia, after United Airlines began offering flights to Saipan every day at the start of this month. To avoid an overflow in Mariana Resort's limited room capacity, the task force shifted its priorities toward Saipan's larger-capacity hotels.

Currently, incoming travelers are required to quarantine at either the Kanoa Resort Saipan or Pacific Islands Club Saipan quarantine sites.

"Mariana Resort is still identified as a government quarantine site if needed. If we need to activate it, it can still be used, but all passengers are going to PIC and Kanoa. We didn't close [the MR site] down because there's something wrong with it. It's because we don't have the [room] capacity with the number of flights that we're getting on a daily basis," said Villagomez.

Citing upcoming holidays and more shifts in the CNMI's quarantine measures, Villagomez expects even larger influxes of incoming travelers in the future.

"Of course, anticipating upcoming holidays [and] shifts in our quarantine measures, there's a lot of factors that we're factoring in. We want to make sure that we have ample room for our inbound to protect our community from, any spread of [COVID-19] on-island," said Villagomez.

## VOTERS

From Page 1

tions are available online.

As of yesterday, no one has yet to file their candidacy and that the deadline to submit nominating petitions and candidacy documents is this coming Friday, Sept. 3.

Last Tuesday, the Democratic Party of the NMI central executive committee announced its endorsement of Corina L. Magofina as the party's candidate for the special election.

CEC opened the submission for nominating petitions and candidacy last Aug. 19.

The seven-day early voting will start on Oct. 9, but voting sites have not been confirmed yet.

Igitol said the proposed Election

Day polling sites are Oleai Elementary School for 3A and Garapan Elementary School for 3B.

She said votes will be counted manually at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The executive director said ballots will be printed locally.

The CEC board is looking at holding a meeting on Sept. 10. At present, there are five CEC commissioners—two from Saipan, two from Rota, and one from Tinian. There are four vacancies—three from Saipan and one from Tinian.

Blanco's untimely passing last July 23 triggered the special election.

In March 2019, the CEC held a special election also for Precinct 3, following the death of representative Francisco Dela Cruz in January 2019.



Igitol

## TOGETHER

From Page 1

The Hafa & Adai Tirow Pledge was first launched on Saipan in May and was followed by the Tinian and Rota unveiling in June. The GCEA capped its summer-long anniversary celebrations on Saipan with a recognition ceremony for its valued partners in the Public Private Partnership program, all of whom signed up for the Hafa & Adai Tirow Pledge, making this the largest pledge event to date. The partners' pledge represented more than 600 residents.

In the past year, GCEA's PPP allies have adopted more than 60 tourist sites and village facilities throughout the three islands. As they continue to honor their commitments to the PPP initiative, they are also taking on another responsibility—living and promoting the values of the Marianas' local cultures. The Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge's main proponents—the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Marianas Visitors Authority, and the GCEA—see the campaign as a way to keep the local cultures alive and thriving in everyday experiences and serve as a critical tool for the recovery and sustainability of our tourism industry. If we do this right, visitors to the Marianas will experience cultural authenticity, feel the warm hospitality, taste local foods, and hear our languages spoken through many touchpoints.

Culture and tourism are linked because the former makes the destination distinct in the latter's crowded and highly competitive global market. Our local culture is what sets us apart from other popular destinations and proves that the Marianas is more than just an island getaway. We have a community that could provide our

visitors authentic cultural experiences they are longing for. The Marianas has individuals and groups that could show tourists our way of life through many forms—arts and crafts, food, fairs and festivals, sports, music and performances, and conversations/communications.

A study published in 2006 to gauge Japanese tourists' satisfaction and experiences of the cultural heritage attractions in the Marianas found that they had the "lack of ability to actually experience the various elements of culture" and had an even "stronger intention to experience them during future visits."

Through the Hafa & Adai Tirow Pledge, other related programs, and the support of our community, we hope to give all our visitors "actual cultural experiences."

Understandably, these culture and tradition promotions will take a lot of effort and resources from our public and private partners to implement, but there's one best practice for the Hafa & Adai Tirow Pledge that won't require one to break the bank—greeting visitors and fellow residents with a smile.

Saipan is the first island to welcome visitors to the Marianas. A warm greeting at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport would certainly make a visitor feel welcomed in our beautiful islands as they look forward to sightseeing and "life-seeing" experiences in the CNMI.

Let's show them our Hafa Adai & Tirow spirit and proudly represent our island's culture and traditions.

For more information, visit the GCEA at [cnmieconomy.com](http://cnmieconomy.com), on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at [gceacnmi@gmail.com](mailto:gceacnmi@gmail.com).

## DELTA

From Page 1

policy leaders clarified that these claims are false.

Also, COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez said the government-run quarantine site at Mariana Resort & Spa has not been shut down; it remains on standby and fully ready for government use if needed.

In a public advisory published on Wednesday, the CNMI's health policy leaders assured that they will always inform the community if there is a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the CNMI, and that the CNMI has the "tools and personnel in place to safeguard our community."

Additionally, the advisory reminded the community that WhatsApp messages and social media posts that are not directly from the task force or CHCC are unauthorized, untrue, and unverified. "The spread of misinformation can be more dangerous than the virus itself. The CNMI is re-



# Club 88 in Garapan temporarily delays closure

By **BEA CABRERA**  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

The owner of the Club 88 e-gaming venue in Garapan announced yesterday that it is holding its planned closure in abeyance while proposed changes to Saipan Local Law 22-6 are on the table of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Mariana Entertainment LLC, which sued to halt the implementation of Saipan Local Law 22-6 that essentially doubled the license fees on e-gaming machines, appears encouraged by the judge's words that encouraged the company to work out the matter with the delegation, hence the decision to temporarily postpone its planned closure.

According to the company's consultant, Gus Noble, they have sent a letter of amendment two weeks ago to Sen. Vinnie Sablan (R-Saipan), who chairs the delegation, which they revised and the new letter is now going through the process. "We have sent a letter to the delegation to amend their bill and not to repeal it. ... We also made a suggestion as to what we think is a reasonable compromise to reach a favorable flat amount and percentage for all. ... We're hopeful that we can eventually

come up with a compromise."

He said they have also have been talking to delegation members to get their support. "Personally, I am worried that perhaps we have offended the Saipan delegation, but that's not our intent. ... We're just trying to have our voice heard. ... Our intent was to reach out to them and have an opportunity to speak to them or have the opportunity to be heard," he added.

Saipan Local Law 22-6 imposes \$2,500 tax or 15% of net gaming proceeds, whichever is greater, on all electronic gaming devices on Saipan, including poker amusement machines within e-gaming facilities or hotels. This is on top of the \$2,500 license fee these companies are already paying to the CNMI government for each machine. In effect, this doubles the license fees of e-gaming devices.

Noble, who is also the gaming consultant for Saipan Vegas Resort, said their company has been in operation for over five years and they continue to employ residents and contribute to the economy and pay taxes. "We've always paid quite high taxes on time and in full. ... but we understand where the delegation is coming from with regard to revenue loss from poker rooms. We respect and

understand that and we are happy to come to a compromise...one that we think is livable and reasonable."

He added that the initial decision to close Club 88 was a difficult decision as many factors were considered. "We're still in a pandemic and the likelihood of our employees trying to find a job in this current environment is very difficult. ... So while we're still in that process of trying to get the amendment, we're going to postpone temporarily the closure of Club 88. ... We don't know how long but hopefully, until we get the amendment."

Both Club 88 employees Maureen Javier and Sonia Lacerna-Ancheta feel uncertain about their employment status since the new tax measure was signed into law last August 2, 2021.

"I carry mixed feelings of shock and fear with the thought of the possibility of losing my job because it is a known fact that it is hard to find a job nowadays. What is special about this company is that they take good care of us. Aside from being provided employment benefits, promotion and increase in pay is real here. If you work hard, the company recognizes it and gives you the compensation

you deserve," Javier said.

This was echoed by Ancheta who, despite being in her late 60's, was employed by Mariana Entertainment LCC to work at Club 88. "I need this job. ... It will be very difficult for me to find another job because I am not young anymore. ... My message to our lawmakers is to please help us keep our jobs because it will be a big help for us, for the 30 local people employed at Club 88," she said.

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Noble said that Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, who is handling their case in Superior Court, has encouraged members of the Legislature and his company, Mariana Entertainment LLC and MP

Holdings LLC, to discuss the effects of the bill "The next court hearing will be on Sept. 16 and we are hopeful that we will be able to go to that hearing and say, 'It's okay, judge, we've worked it out.'"

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## PUBLIC NOTICE for Hospital Dump Site

### Public Information Meeting and Extension of the Public Comment Period

**WHO:** For the local community and public. Presented by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)

**WHAT:** A public meeting to provide an overview of the results of the investigation for the Project named 'Hospital Dump' a Formerly Used Defense (FUDS) site. Based on the results of the investigations, the Government has reviewed the data with Federal, State and local Agencies, and selected the proposed 'No Action' decision.

The proposed 'No Action' decision is based on the conclusions, that the metals found in site soils, (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-8 metals) do not pose unacceptable risks to human health or the environment. Additionally, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in soil above applicable screening levels were successfully removed from the Hospital Dump FUDS site. If after consideration of public comments, this proposed 'No Action' decision is ultimately selected, no further additional investigation, remediation or removal will be performed and USACE will pursue project closeout.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** 22nd Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building, P.O. Box 500586, Saipan, MP 96950

**WHY:** To present to the public the Proposed Plan to facilitate public involvement in the decision-making process for the Hospital Dump Site (FUDS Project No. H09CN012001), located at Talofoto, Saipan.

**HOW:** Attend the meeting. To ensure the community's concerns are addressed, the public comment period has been extended from July 20, 2021 to September 30, 2021. In addition, this meeting is being held for the community's attendance. The Proposed Plan and Remedial Investigation Report are available for public review in the Administrative Record file at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Insatto Street, Susupe, Saipan. During this time, the public is encouraged to submit any written comments regarding the project to:

#### Project Point of Contact:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Honolulu District  
Programs and Project Management Division, Environmental Branch  
ATTN: Lori Wong (PM-HDS)  
Building 230 / CEPOH-PP-E  
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440  
Fax 808-835-4129  
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\*Terms and conditions apply.

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# 'Next batch of stimulus cards going to a large group'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig said Friday that they anticipate large group of taxpayers would get their CNMI stimulus cards in the next distribution.

Atalig said they have already distributed over 20,000 stimulus cards but they are aware that there are still some who have not gotten their cards yet.

Speaking about the stimulus card distribution during a radio press briefing, Atalig said that those who did not

get a stimulus card need to submit their 2020 tax return, even if they have zero income. He disclosed that they have a bunch of zero income filers who still need to file their 2020 tax return in order to get a local stimulus.

"Keep in mind it takes about seven to 10 days to get the cards here," said Atalig, without giving an estimate as to how many are in the second batch.

He said he is looking at options to make it quicker, such as issuing blank cards that don't have the taxpayers' name on it.

"We can order cards and

make it quicker so that this next batch can be able to get stimulus [faster] and help their family," the secretary said.

To ensure that the money is circulated within the CNMI economy and is not used elsewhere, these pre-paid debit stimulus cards are geo-restricted so they can't be used outside the Commonwealth.

Eligible individuals are receiving \$500 and \$500 for each dependent.

Finance earlier stated that they expect to release \$25 million for 28,000 local stimulus checks using American Rescue Plan Act money.

## CNMI treatment courts delegation attend NADCP Rise 21 conference

A CNMI Drug Court and Mental Health Court Delegation recently attended the National Association of Drug Court Professionals Rise 21 Conference in National Harbor, Maryland that concluded last week.

The conference, which lasted from Aug. 15 to Aug. 18, is an opportunity for the CNMI to participate in sessions on critical topics, convene with colleagues from across the globe, and earn valuable continuing education for those

spearheading the Drug Court and Mental Health Court.

The group included representatives from the Office of the Attorney General, Public Defender's Office, Department of Corrections, Department of Public Safety and the CNMI Judiciary.

According to Chester Hinds, Office of the Attorney General's criminal division acting chief prosecutor, it is crucial for the CNMI's treatment courts be on top of current treatment methods and approaches and legal and constitutional issues that may arise in treatment courts to better serve the CNMI. This is why the CNMI Drug Court team attends the conference regularly, he said.

"Treatment courts must use evidence-based, best practices

and methods, otherwise the program will fail to properly treat the participants. This is why the CNMI Drug Court team attends the conference regularly," he said.

Hinds, who has attended the conference four times, said the conference brings together treatment court teams, judges, case workers, managers, officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, counselors, etc., for an educational experience dealing with addiction and mental health.

"The NADCP conference is always well run. Each day there are a number of classes that inform people in attendance about the best practices for treatment courts. Classes like these make sure that treatment courts are on right path," he said. **(Kimberly B. Esmores)**

## Power interruption on Tuesday

There will be a scheduled power service interruption on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, from 9am to 12:pm for a portion of Gualo Rai. As the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance, there will be a scheduled power interruption to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace a leaning and rotted primary power pole in the Gualo Rai area.

- Outage type: Sectionalized outage on the Kiya 3 Circuit
- Project location: Gualo Rai
- Power service area(s) affected: Portions of Gualo Rai (Mac Arthur Drive, Treaty Lane and Constitution Place).
- Water well(s) affected: GR-151 and GR-154 Wells (Cus-

tomers in Gualo Rai Road, Tower Lane, Historia Place, Mac Arthur Drive, Earhart Drive, Isley Place, Robat Drive and Espana Drive).

- Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

Water service to the affected areas will shut-off during the scheduled power service interruption. Customers should expect full restoration of water service no later than 1pm as ample time is needed for water to pressurize into the waterlines.

For more information, contact the CUC hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

FLORO JR. )  
A. BAUTISTA ) FCD-DI CIVIL  
PETITIONER ) ACTION NO.  
VS. ) 20-0260  
EMELITA BASAS )  
BAUTISTA ) **SUMMONS FOR**  
RESPONDENT ) **PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:  
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1373 P.O. Box 10002 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 8th day of July, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361  
Seman Law Offices, LLC  
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204  
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950  
Telephone: (670) 323-2115  
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com  
Attorney for: Petitioner Antonio Camacho Chong

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

) PROBATE CASE  
IN MATTER OF ) NO. 21-0239-CV  
THE ESTATE OF )  
FRANCISCO ) NOTICE OF HEARING ON  
ANTOS CHONG, ) PETITION TO PROBATE and  
Deceased ) NOTICE TO CREDITORS  
Date: Thurs, Sept. 23, 2021  
Time: 10:00 am  
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

### TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE FRANCISCO SANTOS CHONG OR OF HIS ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Antonio Camacho Chong, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of **FRANCISCO SANTOS CHONG**, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Estate of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 10:00am, at before Judge Joseph N. Camacho, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 20 August 2021.

By: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COURT



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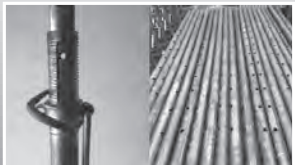
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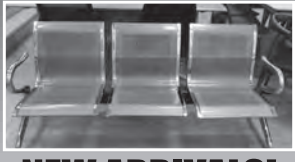
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# Villagomez says they're now reviewing Senate's budget version

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) said Tuesday that they are carefully looking into the changes the Senate made in its recently passed version of the CNMI government's budget for fiscal year 2022.

Villagomez said in an interview that House Ways and Means chair Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota) is going to meet with committee members to just go over the Sen-

ate's version before they can decide whether to accept the changes or not.

He acknowledged that some issues have come up and they just want to make sure that they're not as big of an issue as they seem. "So we just want to make sure that we do our due diligence," said Villagomez, adding that they will work with the Legislative Bureau staff, their fiscal analyst, and legal counsel to make sure that the provi-

sions in the Senate version are in order.

The Senate passed Thursday night its version of the \$144.84 million budget bill.

Villagomez said they are optimistic that they should have a budget for fiscal year 2002 before the deadline. The current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30, 2021. Unless a budget is enacted by then, the CNMI government will be forced to shut down.



Villagomez

If the House and the Senate fail to agree on the budget, this will trigger the formation of a conference committee composed of House and Senate representatives that will hammer out a budget that's acceptable to both chambers.

If this happens, Villagomez said they should hopefully try to get that budget bill out and maybe get it to the governor by Sept. 11, 2021, so at least the governor has 20 days to review it.

The speaker is optimistic that they may have a decision on the budget by the end of the

week. "I think that's where the decision is going to be made, whether to accept it or reject," Villagomez pointed out.

With \$175 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds, senators appropriated \$278,384,323 in combined general local funds and ARPA funds.

From the \$144,848,801 total identified budgetary resources for fiscal year 2022, with deduction of debt service, this leaves the government \$98,897,301 that's available for appropriation. Including the \$4,487,022 budget for the Department of Public Lands, the grand total revenue available for appropriation is \$103,384,323.

The Senate's version of House Bill 22-74, House Draft 3, says that the Legislature concurs with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' use of the ARPA funds, as provided in Volume 4 of the governor's annual budget submission of April 2021 as amended in July 2021, and the ARPA Section 602 to fund salary adjustments for government employees in fiscal year 2022.

This provision would render moot Manglona's House Bill 22-33 that has not been acted on by the Senate. That bill seeks to give the Legislature appropriation powers over the CNMI's share of ARPA money.

What the Senate did was take Volume 4 of the governor's submission of the ARPA funds and embedded it into the departments and agencies and municipalities and the different branches of government.

## NESTING SEA TURTLES ARE AT RISK OF EXTINCTION!

Illegal poaching is the largest threat to sea turtles in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Each year, **about 12 turtles** nest on our beaches and this number continues to decline.

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Anonymous reports welcomed for poached turtles, suspicious behaviors, illegal products, injured/dead turtles, and tracks or nests.



## DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315  
www.dcrm.gov.mp



## NOTICE OF APPLICATION As of August 27, 2021

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Lino M. Olapai	08/09/2021 SSCH-2021-048	Demolition & Soil Testing	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Approved* 08/24/2021
2. Ichiban Marine Sports	08/16/2021 SLR-2021-049	Water Jet Craft & Parasailing	Designated Parasailing Zone & Water Jet Craft Course	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
3. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	08/16/2021 SLR-2021-050	Water Jet Craft & Parasailing	Designated Parasailing Zone & Water Jet Craft Course	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
4. Department of Public Works	08/18/2021 SSWm-2020-X-016	Island-Wide Emergency Repairs of the Beach Road Concrete Pathway & Cross-Section Road Repairs on Highways Route 310 & Route 38	Island-Wide, Saipan	Shoreline, Wetland	Under Review
4. Thank You Saipan Corporation	08/20/2021 SLR-2021-051	Parasailing & Banana Boat	Designated Parasailing Zone & In-Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

## TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that its Regular Meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2021, has been rescheduled to Wednesday, September 1, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

### AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY**
  - a. Call to Order
  - b. Roll Call
  - c. Adoption of Agenda
  - d. Adoption of Minutes
    1. July 29, 2021 - Special Meeting
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS<sup>1</sup>**
- III. **REPORTS**
  - a. Chair's Report
  - b. Executive Director's Report
- IV. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
  - a. Casino Service Industry
    - 1) Matsui Asia, Limited
    - 2) United States Playing Card
- V. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino
- VI. **EXECUTIVE SESSION<sup>2</sup>**
- VII. **OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS**
- VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS**
- IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

<sup>1</sup> Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.



# NMC-UCEDD welcomes new members to its advisory committee

The Northern Marianas College's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities recently met and welcomed new members to its Consumer Advisory Committee, or CAC.

Also discussed at the Aug. 19 meeting were the current projects of the college and NMC-UCEDD.

The new members are Doricyn T. Wahed, Cherry Mae Cristoria Penaranda, Charito Cristoria, Monika H. Diaz, Elsie Tilipao Rebuenog, John Oliver Gonzales, Donna Flores, and Robert Mendiola.

Robert Mendiola was elected as the chairperson, while Monika H. Diaz was elected as the vice chairperson.

Prior to Mendiola was Emerio S. Fitial, who served for two years as CAC chair.

"It has been an honor to serve as CAC Chairman for two consecutive terms alongside Vera Tudela as my vice-chair and I want to welcome our new chair and vice-chair to lead us forward with our new UCEDD Director and her staff," Fitial said.

Diaz, who is also the newest member of the committee, said she is grateful to work alongside "a dedicated team." She succeeds Vera Tudela as vice chairperson of CAC.

"One thing I would always say to people is that you can always overcome anything if you put your mind to it," Diaz said. "I joined the CAC because I wanted to provide first-hand experiences and stories as a college student with a disability."

The next CAC meeting will be on Dec. 3, 2021.

NMC-UCEDD is part of



The Northern Marianas College's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities recently held its quarterly meeting and welcomed new members to its Consumer Advisory Committee. Present at the meeting along with the Consumer Advisory Committee were NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC vice president for Administration and Advancement Frankie Eliptico, NMC dean for Academic Programs and Services Randy Yates, and interim UCEDD director Charlotte Cepeda.

NMC

a nationwide network of independent but interlinked centers, representing an expansive national resource for addressing issues, finding solutions, and advancing research related to the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. The CNMI UCEDD is part of the Pacific Basin University Centers for Excellence, which is based at the University of Hawaii.

For more information, email [cnmi.ucedd@marianas.edu](mailto:cnmi.ucedd@marianas.edu) or call 237-6801. (NMC)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
 editor@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
 mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## A chance to beat back COVID delta variant

**W**e hope that hometown Pfizer has retained a real-life Don Draper Madison Ave. ad genius to promote Comirnaty, the new brand name for the COVID vaccine that yesterday received final legal approval from the FDA. Getting this life-saving product (or another anti-COVID shot) to the hesitant holdouts is critical for all of us.

The 200 million Pfizer doses that have already been administered in this country came under a special, emergency use authorization. But from here on out, it's a fully-vetted vaccine, which means that not only can Pfizer market and advertise—and we really want them to do a fantastically convincing sales job—but government and schools and employers can, and must, require the vaccine for their workers and students (no, it's not approved at all for kids under 12, and for 12-to-15-year-olds, it's still at emergency authorization).

So high-five for New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio for imposing a no-exception rule that all 148,000 employees of the city's schools be vaccinated by Sept. 27. He must now extend that to all other positions on the public workforce. Private employers should follow suit. The state Health Department, prodded by the city, must also add the COVID vaccine to the current schedule of shots for all students 16 and older.

Once the FDA okays the younger kids, then the city and state should add them to the mandates.

These teens and unvaccinated cops and cashiers and cousins are among the 82 million Americans who've had every chance to get a vaccine, but haven't. Their inaction, whether born out of political fear and loathing or awful misinformation or more personal medical worries, is causing 1,000 deaths a day from the highly contagious delta variant, a national calamity that is almost entirely avoidable.

If you want to be part of society, get your vaccine. You'll be better off and so will everyone else. You'll get \$100, and more importantly, you'll live to spend it.

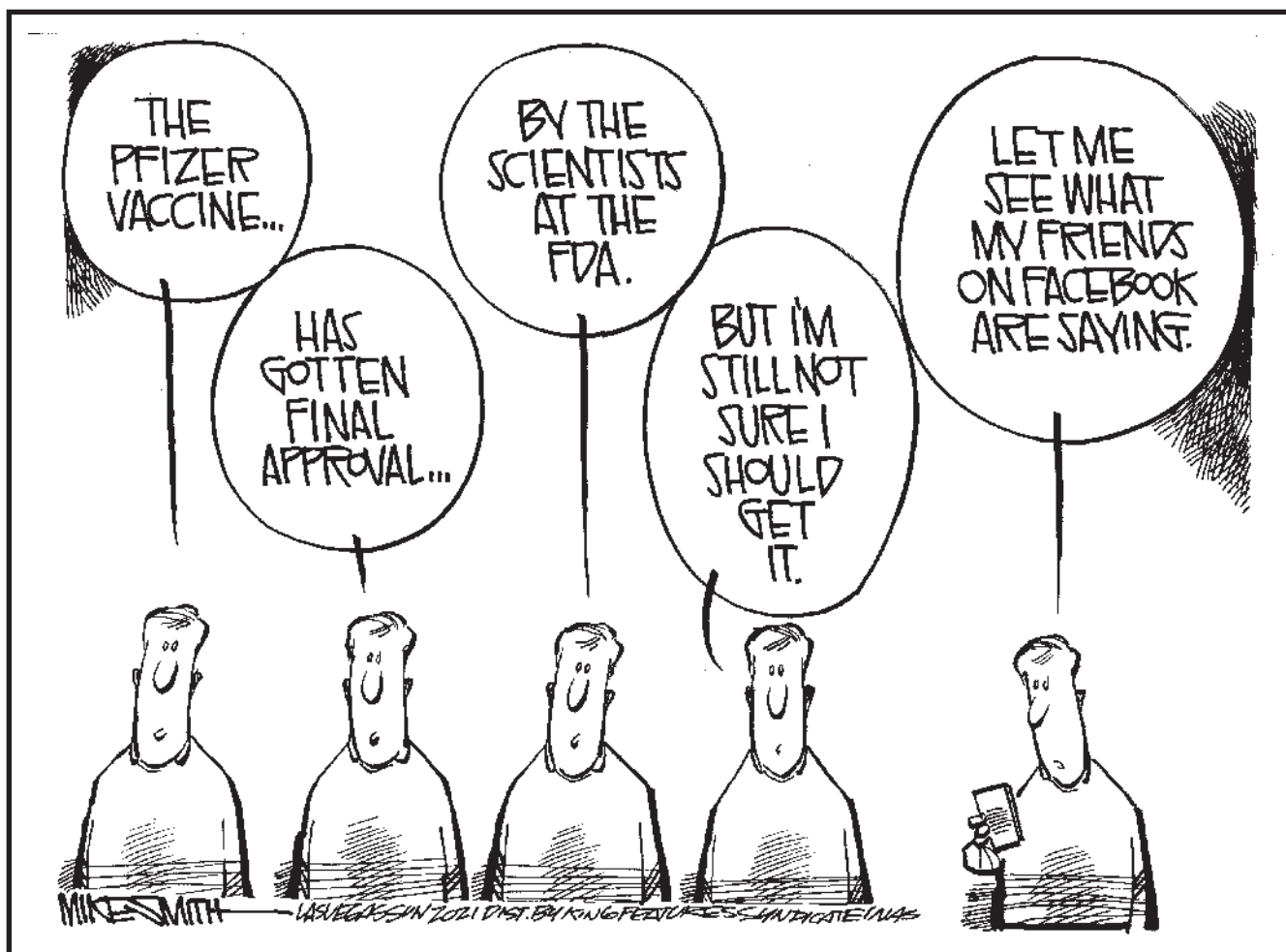
©2021 New York Daily News

## Sharply increase vaccination production to help the world

**S**teps by the U.S. and other wealthy nations to provide millions of residents a third COVID-19 vaccination in coming weeks have raised tricky questions of equity. On Aug. 4, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that it was unacceptable that wealthy nations with 33 times the rate of vaccinations as poor nations would consider booster shots when billions of people have never gotten their first shots.

That framing misses a larger question: Why can't vaccine production be sharply ramped up to generate billions of shots for people who are still unvaccinated in lower-income nations in Latin America, Africa and Asia and for those who need more protection in wealthy nations? In February, Pfizer

See SHARPLY on next page



## President Biden should just admit: 'We blew it'

**J**oe Biden was probably always going to be a one-term president. His age was a political liability when he defeated Donald Trump in 2020. And given how time works, it will be more so in 2024.

But his age may be irrelevant in light of the chaos in Kabul. Few politicians can overcome a failed assertion as emphatic and assured as Biden's on July 8: "The likelihood there's going to be the Taliban overrunning everything and owning the whole country is highly unlikely."

Or this: "There's going to be no circumstance where you see people being lifted off the roof of an embassy in the—of the United States from Afghanistan. It is not at all comparable."

But, of course, it is comparable, and in ways that have to do with much more than mere optics. Biden was wrong. Everyone would be better served if he could simply say, "Well, we made a mistake."

This is never easy to do. Biden is a victim of the foible that afflicts politicians, military officers, CEOs and many others with public responsibilities: the perceived necessity to always shine the brightest light on every dilemma.

This is what kept us in Vietnam for so long, the aspirational lie that the enemy was back on his heels and that victory was imminent if we committed just a bit more time, money and troops. This same unwillingness to face the truth played a big part in keeping us in Afghanistan for two decades.

We deceive ourselves with this sort of wishful thinking in other areas, as well. There really is no good news on climate change, but bearers of dark reports about global prospects often attempt to soften the blow by holding out the prospect that somehow technology is going to rescue us, thereby undermining our will to do much of anything, while things quickly fall apart.

We've done this with the pandemic. A hilarious caricature of this sort of wishfulness is former President Donald Trump's musing about the virus on Feb. 27, 2020: "It's going to disappear. One day—it's like a miracle—it will disappear."

In short, politicians have an irresistible instinct to tell us what we want to hear. Cynics might call this lying, but the politicians themselves are not immune to self-delusion. It's entirely possible that Trump more or less believes some of his outrageous statements, just as it's possible that Biden just

**By JOHN M. CRISP**  
 Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Georgetown, Texas, and can be reached at jcrispcolmnns@gmail.com.



could not believe that Afghanistan could fall so quickly.

But like Vietnam, the war in Afghanistan was always unwinnable. Trump concluded the surrender to the Taliban in February 2020. The Afghan government was excluded from the negotiations. It was a separate peace that disheartened the Afghan military and gave the green light to the insurgents to begin the attacks, negotiations, threats, bribes and intimidation that paved the way for their breathtakingly rapid seizure of the country.

Biden deserves credit for making the decision to leave Afghanistan after two decades of futility. But the hasty exit from Kabul was bungled. A bad war is always likely to end badly, but it was the Biden administration's job to plan for and to minimize the chaos.

It's an illusion to think that Trump could have managed a more orderly retreat, but the Biden administration has little excuse for being caught flat-footed. And if Joe Biden would like to be a truly transformational president he could begin by admitting that what we're witnessing in Kabul is a failure of planning, bureaucracy, intelligence and imagination.

Biden should admit that his administration failed to understand how quickly the Taliban would advance and how rapidly the window for evacuation of Americans

and vulnerable Afghans would close. He shouldn't bother with excuses or attempt to blame anyone else. He should admit that his administration miscalculated and move forward from there.

This sort of candor would be refreshing and maybe even liberating. In fact, if we refused to tolerate anything less, we might exercise more caution before we drift into another hopeless adventure like Vietnam or Afghanistan.

Now, that would be transformational, indeed.





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## Global warming: A life-threatening issue

By **JOSE S. DELA CRUZ**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

**G**lobal warming is one of the most pressing issues affecting our planet and all living things on it. It endangers life itself. This climate phenomenon—the Earth’s atmosphere getting warmer and warmer—appears to have begun only within the past 50 years. Scientists have been admonishing us for some time now that this global crisis—the Earth’s gradually rising temperature—appears to be directly related to man’s never-ending quest to manufacture and consume all kinds of consumer goods and products. They range from the millions of cars and trucks that endlessly guzzle fossil fuel, to the millions of other consumer goods and products that bombard the consuming public 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

We have seen with increasing regularity over the past two decades very depressing pictures of cities and towns that are completely covered by dark and heavy air pollution. Thick air pollution is constantly being discharged from the huge smokestacks of thousands of manufacturing plants and facilities in America, China, Mexico, India, and other manufacturing countries around the world. These manufacturing plants produce the countless number of products that we consume daily.

Industrial cities and towns struggle during daytime, without much success, to see the sunlight that has been completely shut out by the pervasive and thick smog and air pollution being generated by these manufacturing facilities. Such filthy and hazardous air has inundated industrial towns and cities as well as their surrounding vicinity. This carbon-based pollution also affects the entire Earth’s atmosphere, which serves as a “buffer” between the Earth and the strong, radioactive rays of the sun. It is frightening to know that the health of the roughly seven billion people on Earth is being directly compromised by the gradual rise in the temperature of the Earth’s atmosphere—all in the name of human consumption and making money.

As a result of man’s gross negligence, wanton disregard,

and abuse of his stewardship of the Earth and its natural resources, we are now beginning to see the continuing, irreparable harm caused by man himself. The harmful effects of global warming have reached that point where it has already started to inflict harm on all living things on this planet. And that includes man himself.

Every year, we find that the Earth’s atmosphere is getting not just warmer but hotter as well. Whoever denies that the Earth is getting warmer every year is willfully lying or there is something wrong or abnormal with his sense of reality. Indeed, we have already seen and experienced first-hand the harmful effects of global warming: the destructive hurricanes and typhoons in the Pacific and the Atlantic; the huge forest fires in California, Oregon, and the rest of the Pacific Northwest; the destructive floods that have destroyed lives and property in America, Europe, India, Asia, and Germany just recently; and the many earthquakes registering between 6.0 to over 7.0 on the Richter scale—in Japan, Alaska, Mexico, Chile, Indonesia, and Haiti just recently.

All of mankind should by now be aware of the destructive consequences of global warming. It is no longer an issue of whether global warming is real or not because it is not a hoax. It has already reached that stage where we need to do something to stop the onslaught of global warming. Man’s activities on Earth are the proximate cause of global warming. We started it and we must now stop it because our very survival is on the line. And this time, the theory of “survival of the fittest” that Charles Darwin espoused about 150 years ago might no longer be true. This time, the Earth itself may no longer be able to sustain life, including those which evolve.

Is this what we want to happen? Of course not. That is why it is imperative that we must collectively act to reverse the effect of global warming. The danger to man’s existence here on Earth will most likely not be nuclear holocaust; it would be economic greed that stems from man’s unrelenting abuse of the natural resources here on Earth. We do not want to see the low-lying islands right here in Micronesia and the Pacific disappear in the

next decade or two. The Marshall Islands are clearly at risk, as well as Tuvalu and the Maldives.

It is personally inspiring to see during the past several years the appearance on the world stage of so many young people taking the lead to make the world aware of the dangers of global warming to everyone. Young leaders like the daring and inspirational Greta Thunberg of Sweden and the forceful climate-change youth advocate from the Marshall Islands, Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner, come to mind. Let us hope that government and industrial leaders from every country on this planet join hands and take concrete steps to begin the active process of stopping global warming.

As many of us already know, the biggest culprit causing global warming is the use of fossil fuel by man to operate its manufacturing and industrial plants; to power automobiles, trucks, ships and planes; to produce electricity, and so forth. We know that there are clean sources of energy that man could use instead. These sources of energy do not emit carbon dioxide that create the so-called “greenhouse gas” effect. The increase in carbon dioxide in the Earth’s upper atmosphere creates a shield (like a greenhouse) in the atmosphere, which in turn traps the extremely powerful energy and heat from the sun that bounce back after hitting Earth. But the trapped heat and energy from the sun cannot go back into space. It remains inside the Earth’s atmosphere and causes our entire atmosphere to get warmer.

This is the reason why climate change advocates urge that we use energy that does not produce carbon dioxide. Alternative energy sources include solar energy, hydroelectric, and wind energy. By turning to clean energy sources for our energy needs, and by stopping our reliance on fossil fuel for energy production, we will hopefully begin to reverse and eliminate global warming at some point in the future. We will also hopefully begin to see less powerful storms, fewer forest fires, fewer earthquakes, less flooding, and fewer casualties to living things such as fish and other ocean lives that die whenever the ocean temperature rises.

*Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the NMI Supreme Court.*

## How an encounter with humpback whales keeps me inspired in the climate change fight

**A**s our boat slowly traversed a large channel south of Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve in southeast Alaska in June, my friends and I estimated that we were surrounded by more than 30 humpback whales. There was no wind. No other boats. The water was flat and calm with bright skies overhead. We cut the motor, floated and listened. Sound traveled easily. I could hear multiple blows—long “pa-too-ish” whale exhalations—some close, some against the shore, all seemingly orchestrated. The surround sound of forceful explosions of air made it feel as if the Earth was taking a long restorative breath.

These synchronized blows feel to me as if they are a kind of respite to the dire consequences of climate change spelled out in the sixth report from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC. It was written by more than 100 international experts and is the most conclusive report yet linking extreme weather events to climate change. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres described the IPCC report as “a code red for humanity.” It also is a code red for the creatures we share the planet with both on land and in the ocean.

The impacts of climate change on our oceans can be less visible than what we see on land but are just as dramatic. When we hear about another heat wave, we should remind ourselves that there are also marine heat waves, warming events that can destroy coral reefs and decimate populations of fish and seabirds. Marine heat waves have doubled since the 1980s and are expected to become 20 to 50 times more frequent. For every headline about blazing wildfires, we need to think also of ocean acidification, caused when the pH of oceans falls as they absorb the extra

carbon dioxide released by burning fossil fuels. The more acidic our oceans, the more shells and bone structures dissolve. This affects everything from zooplankton to whales.

The humpback whales we encountered feed on herring and small forage fish. They eat more than 2,000 pounds of food each day. Herring compose a major portion of their consumption. And what do the herring eat? They eat small sea snails, pteropods (a type of mollusk) known as sea butterflies, which have a winged foot held in place by a small, internal shell. The sea butterfly cannot survive without its shell.

In 2014, PBS reported on a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration study that found that more than 50% of pteropods, including sea butterflies, sampled from between Central California and northern Washington, had “severely dissolved shells.” If the sea butterfly population declines, then herring populations decline. It’s a short food chain jump from this to negative effects on humpback whales.

Right now, in my Alaska backyard, the whales are doing fine. They are rhythmically breathing. They do not know what awaits these cold waters that must absorb more and more carbon. For decades the oceans have acted as a buffer against global warming, absorbing roughly a quarter of the carbon dioxide that we emit from burning fossil fuels. The ocean also absorbs more than 90% of the excess heat trapped on Earth by carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Keeping the oceans clean and vibrant is a vital part of combating climate change.

What we do on land to scale up clean energy and reduce greenhouse gases will make the biggest difference for the oceans. Thus, we need our leaders to think of what we do on

month. In April, Moderna said it was on pace to produce 3 billion shots in 2022, double its previous projection. These are scalable achievements.

The path forward is pretty simple: Pfizer and Moderna ramp

By **KATE TROLL**

Los Angeles Times

*Kate Troll is the former executive director of United Fishermen of Alaska and served as a fishery development specialist for the state of Alaska.*



land, such as establishing refuges and national parks for better land and wildlife protection, and advocate that we do the same for the ocean.

The Biden administration is working in the right direction with its goal of conserving 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. In June, 90 environmental and marine scientists sent a letter to President Biden asking him to establish more marine national monuments to protect federal ocean ecosystems as a way of reaching this goal. This is what comes to mind when I think about my exceptional day with the whales in Icy Strait.

On the way back to our cabin, our group kept our eyes on a small group of humpbacks. Just as I was pointing them out to a friend, three whales suddenly breached at the same time, close together, with a half-twist to their landing. Then as if to say, “for the finale,” a fourth whale breached in their unfolding wake. Never in my 44 years in Alaska have I seen such a show of might and grandeur.

My work in the natural resource field and as a longtime climate activist gives me a lens to see that if the whales stop breathing, we stop breathing. Our well-being is entwined. The IPCC report makes it clear that time is not on our side. The actions I take to reduce my carbon footprint and engage my community and state to decrease emissions and invest in resiliency are just as much for the whales I’m privileged to live with as they are for me.

up production and coordinate with COVAX, and watchdogs ensure the shots go where they are most needed. It’s simple, ultimately: We need more. We make more.

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## SHARPLY

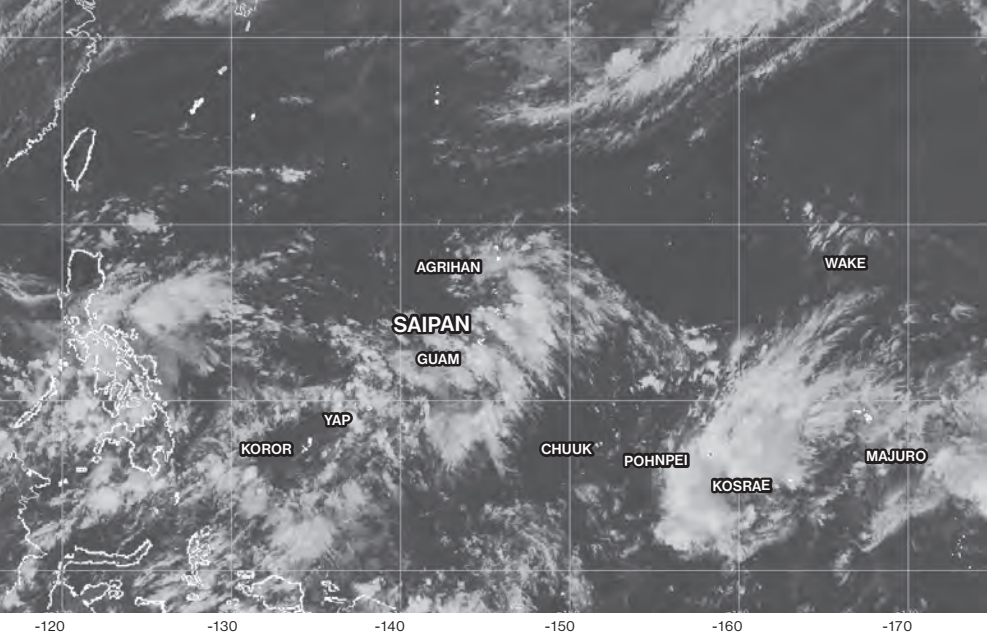
From Page 10

er announced it had doubled vaccine production over a single



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:55 AM, THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers are seen developing east of the Marianas coastal waters. Light to gentle trade winds prevail across the Marianas this morning.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

### Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

### seconds.

If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Heavy rain	76 / 80 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	81 / 88 °F	
Yap	Heavy rain	81 / 86 °F	
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	80 / 87 °F	
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	76 / 86 °F	
Kosrae	Afternoon clouds	80 / 87 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	80 / 87 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:32 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:50 AM	9:52 PM
Saturday	-	10:38 AM	10:29 PM
Sunday	-	11:27 AM	11:08 PM
Monday	-	12:17 PM	11:50 PM
Tuesday	-	1:08 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly sunny	45 / 56 °F	
Beijing	Heavy rain	69 / 75 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	80 / 86 °F	
Honolulu	Partly cloudy	74 / 84 °F	
London	Partly cloudy	60 / 74 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	63 / 87 °F	
Manila	Heavy rain	79 / 85 °F	
Melbourne	Mostly sunny	47 / 66 °F	
Miami	Partly cloudy	81 / 88 °F	
New York	Mostly sunny	74 / 89 °F	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	74 / 93 °F	
Paris	Morning clouds	67 / 78 °F	
Pusan	Partly cloudy	78 / 89 °F	
Rome	Partly cloudy	66 / 86 °F	
Salem	Sunny	58 / 98 °F	
San Francisco	Morning clouds	56 / 69 °F	
Seoul	Mostly cloudy	75 / 92 °F	
Tokyo	Partly sunny	78 / 89 °F	
Washington, DC	Showers	72 / 88 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:00 AM	Low Tide	0.71	
10:40 AM	High Tide	1.73	
4:59 PM	Low Tide	0.72	
10:54 PM	High Tide	1.81	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable				

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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## Temperature checks, masks at the Taste of the Marianas

Festivalgoers at this week-end's 22<sup>nd</sup> Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden in Saipan should plan ahead for COVID-19 safety protocols, including mandatory temperature checks and masks.

Wristbands will be issued to all attendees following temperature checks at the two entry points to the festival grounds at Garapan Fishing Base—one at the north end and one at the south near the Garapan Farmers Market. All attendees are required to wear masks when not eating or drinking. To encourage social distancing, the Marianas Visitors Authority has enlarged the area for this year's three-day festival, which will take place on Aug. 27-29.

"To comply with requirements from the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and COVID-19 Task Force, we have worked closely with several other government agencies who have jurisdiction in the area," said MVA managing director Priscilla Maratita Iakopo. "We greatly appreciate the cooperation of the [CHCC], Bureau of Environmental Health, Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control, Bureau of Environmental &

Coastal Quality, Department of Public Lands, Department of Lands & Natural Resources, Saipan Mayor's Office, Saipan Zoning Office, Department of Public Safety, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services for the cooperative effort to help make this year's festival possible and safe."

The event, an annual signature event of the MVA will be held this year at the Garapan Fishing Base on Saipan and will feature international cuisines, live entertainment, and arts and crafts sales. Entry is free, and the festival will begin at 4pm on the first day (Aug. 27) and at 5pm on Aug. 28 and 29, ending at 10pm on all three days. Twenty food and two beverage vendors are confirmed for the festival.

This year's festival is sponsored by Bank of Guam, IT&E, Bridge Capital, and Dave's Electronics Center.

Entertainment on Friday includes the opening ceremony (4pm), Saipan Community School Ukelele (4:30pm), Awadori Saipan (5pm), Joselyn Toves (5:30pm), Ben San Nicolas (6pm), POLKSAI Guma Chamorro (6:30pm), Saipan Music & Dance Studio

(7pm), Ana Glushko Dance Academy (7:30pm), High Tide (8pm), Man Antigo (8:30pm), and Tattoo (9pm). Entertainment on Saturday includes JX Dance Ballet (5:30pm), Tahiti Nui (6pm), South Korean K Pop (6:30pm), Marianas Saxophone Ensemble (7pm), Simiyan Marianas (7:30pm), Road to 80 raffle (8pm), Black Sands (8:30pm), and Tasi and the Allii's (9pm). Entertainment on Sunday includes Baraha Band (5:30pm), Laly 4 (6:30pm), Da King (7:30pm), Petlas Micronesia (8pm), Studio 29:11 (8:30pm), and Cab Dancers (9pm), WD40 (9:30pm). Entertainment is subject to change.

The festival will feature the *Kadun Pika* Cooking Contest on Aug. 27, the *Eskabeche* Cooking Contest on Aug. 28, and the *Bunelos Kamuti* Eating Contest on the final night, all beginning at 7pm. The contests are open to the first 10 registrants ages 18 and older. Registration forms are available on The Marianas Calendar at [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com), and cash prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Vendors will accept both Taste of the Marianas tokens or cash; however, tokens will not be sold this year.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at [rvillagomez@mymarians.com](mailto:rvillagomez@mymarians.com) or 664-3200. (PR)



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-006-21

### DESIGN, PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION AND MANAGEMENT OF SOLAR PANEL SERVICES AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals from a qualified contractor to design, procure, install, commission and maintain a Ground and/or Roof-Interactive Photovoltaic System at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as per this Statement of Work (SOW), Instruction to Proposers and associated Contract Documents, meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations.

The CPA Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an invitation for bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the Authority because the Authority wishes to acquire services and products that cannot be evaluated by cost alone, or that factors other than price, such as technical expertise and/or the quality of materials, should be considered in determining the successful contractor.

The Statement of Work (SOW) outlines the project's general requirements and may be picked up at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport beginning August 20, 2021 upon payment of \$100.00 in cash, cashier's check, or credit card.

Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the Offeror's proposal package.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on Friday, September 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at the Airport Conference Room, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, to discuss the project work in detail. Attendance to the pre-proposal conference is mandatory. Proposals will only be accepted from proposers who attended this pre-proposal conference. A site inspection may be performed after the pre-proposal conference. However, site inspections should be coordinated with CPA's Master Electrician, Mr. Steve Koch at telephone number 670-237-6540 or 670-285-5624, or via email at [skoch@cnmiports.com](mailto:skoch@cnmiports.com).

Questions shall be submitted in writing to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, or via email to Mr. Koch at [skoch@cnmiports.com](mailto:skoch@cnmiports.com) by no later than 5:00 p.m., September 15, 2021. Responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who attend the mandatory pre-proposal conference.

Proposers shall submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "RFP for Solar Panel Installation and Management for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport".

Proposals must be submitted by no later than 4:00 PM, SEPTEMBER 24, 2021, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

Winning proposer shall be required to comply with 14 CFR 77.5 (c). FAA requires submittal of Alteration Form 7460-1 confirming analysis of no ocular impact to airport's ATCT cab.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



FRONTLINE MARITIME LLC

## JOB VACANCY

### WELDERS (SMAW 6G)

THOSE HAVING PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN  
SHIPYARDS

OR

THOSE HAVING WORKED ON SHIPS AS  
SEAMAN ARE PREFERRED

SELECTED CANDIDATES WILL HAVE TO  
UNDERGO RE-CERTIFICATION BY CLASS  
WELDERS CERTIFICATION & LEVEL OF  
EXPERIENCE WILL BE EVALUATED DURING  
THE INTERVIEW.

RE-CERTIFICATION COST WILL BE FULLY  
PAID BY FRONTLINE MARITIME LLC

PLEASE SEND RESUME BY E-MAIL TO

[frontmar@frontmar.com](mailto:frontmar@frontmar.com)



### Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1

### Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-21-016, Rev.1 Supply and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Power Generating Set with Soundproof Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than September 1, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST). Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Offerors are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on August 24, 2021 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to CUC's Acting Water/Wastewater Manager, Yvonne C. Ogumoro via email address [yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.ogumoro@cucgov.org), CUC's Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address [richard.cano@cucgov.org](mailto:richard.cano@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN  
Purchasing Administrator



# Library patrons join in on fun-filled matches at JKPL's Game Day

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted a successful Game Day at Your Library last Saturday, Aug. 21, that not only featured media enhanced books and trivia games but also honored the memory of the late JKPL computer programmer Roy D. Rechebei.

Game Day, an annual celebration of games, play, libraries, and learning lasted from

10am to 3pm and featured the following highlights for teens and adults: Magic the Gathering and Prodigy hosted by the Information Technology Center. At the Children of Our Homeland Center (or Children's Library), children and their families played a variety of the following fun-filled games: Wii Bowling, Media Enhanced Books or AV2, trivia games, and more.

As a treat, the Saipan Marianas Alpha Leo Club were celebrity guest readers for Saturday Storytime.

All activities were free and open to the public.

The CNMI Public School System provided meals to go for Saturday's programs and activities.

"We hosted a successful Game Day on Saturday, Aug.



Library patrons take part in the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Game Day at Your Library last Saturday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

21, 2021, in honor and in loving memory of our dear friend Roy Rechebei's birthday," said library director Erlinda C. Naputi. "Thank you to Roy's family for their continued support of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, and for the entire community for being a part of our celebration. *Si yu'us ma'ase.*"

This year's Game Day was coordinated by computer programmer Joey Songsong and computer specialist Aldebert

Deleon Guerrero. In compliance with safety and health measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, all activities followed safety and health measures with social distancing measures. (PR)



At the Children of Our Homeland Center (or Children's Library), children and their families played a variety of the following fun-filled games: Wii Bowling, Media Enhanced Books or AV2, trivia games, and more. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the Saipan Marianas Alpha Leo Club are the celebrity guest readers for Saturday Storytime. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## A Northern Mariana Islands Social Service JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

### (1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASE COORDINATOR / SHELTER SUPERVISOR (1) VICTIM HOTLINE COORDINATOR

For more information, job description and application can be obtained from Karidat Main Office in Chalan Kanoa.

**DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:** Completed application form, copy of diploma/degree, resume/bio-data; current police clearance within 6 months and a copy of valid CNMI driver's license.

NO PHONE INQUIRIES PLEASE.  
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2021 AT 4:00PM

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)**  
**RFP21-CHCC/HIT-002**

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 7th, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

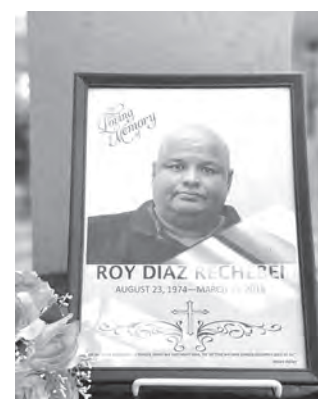
**"PROCUREMENT OF CHCC INTER-FACILITY FIBER OPTICS"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**/S/ CORA P. ADA**  
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Game Day honors the memory of the late JKPL computer programmer Roy D. Rechebei. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT Electrician

### Duties & Responsibilities:

Plans, installs, tests and maintains the electrical wiring of all fixtures based on job specifications and local codes. Diagnose and correct all malfunctioning systems and components in equipment and fixtures when needed. Tests electrical systems and continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment and fixtures, using testing devices such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, and oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety systems; inspect electrical systems and equipments to identify hazards, defects and the need for repair or removal or replacement to ensure compliance with all safety & OSHA standards and regulations. Identify solutions to on-site technical design problems involving electrical system equipment. Other related duties to be assigned & identified by the General Manager.

### Qualification Requirements:

High School/GED & with a minimum of 60 months experience as Electrician With training, certificates and certified as UNIVERSAL Technician

Send Resume to  
FUJI PACIFIC, INC.

Mail: P.O Box 504429, Saipan MP 96950

4th Floor Horiguchi Bldg Garapan Beach Road, Saipan, MP 96950

Cellphone No. (670) 287-6423

Email: fujipacific2020@gmail.com

**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD/DPW/MOT-153**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"TINIAN DUMP CLOSURE AND FACILITY FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MS. ERIN DERRINGTON, LEAD PLANNER**. VIA EMAIL AT [erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp](mailto:erin.derrington@opd.gov.mp) **NO LATER THAN 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME, AUGUST 30, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG**  
DIRECTOR, PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RFP NO.: RFP21-OPD/DPW-154**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"MARPI BACKUP POWER FEASIBILITY STUDY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP MAY BE MADE IN ANY MODE OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO **MR. MICHAEL JOHNSON** VIA E-MAIL AT [Michael.Johnson@opd.gov.mp](mailto:Michael.Johnson@opd.gov.mp) **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME, SEPTEMBER 01, 2021**. ALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ A. KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG**  
DIRECTOR, OPD

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS.

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
CNMI GOVERNMENT

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**  
**RFQ NO.: RFQ21-GOV-156**

SUBMISSION DATE: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

**"A/E DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE GARAPAN REVITALIZATION PROJECT"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFQ CAN BE MADE TO **MR. CHRISTOPHER CONCEPCION**, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, VIA PHONE AT 237-2200 OR EMAIL AT [chris.concepcion@opd.gov.mp](mailto:chris.concepcion@opd.gov.mp)

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ CHRISTOPHER CONCEPCION**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF P&D

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS.



# Business



People sit under Delta sign at Salt Lake City International Airport on July 1, 2021, in Salt Lake City. AP

## Unvaccinated Delta workers to be charged \$200 a month

By **DAVID KOENIG**  
AP AIRLINES WRITER

Delta Air Lines will charge employees on the company health plan \$200 a month if they fail to get vaccinated against COVID-19, a policy the airline's top executive says is necessary because the average hospital stay for the virus costs the airline \$50,000.

CEO Ed Bastian said that all employees who have been hospitalized for the virus in recent weeks were not fully vaccinated.

The airline said Wednesday that it also will stop extending pay protection to unvaccinated workers who contract COVID-19 on Sept. 30, and will require unvaccinated workers to be tested weekly beginning Sept. 12, although Delta will cover the cost. They will have to wear masks in all indoor company settings.

Delta stopped short of matching United Airlines, which will require employees to be vaccinated starting Sept.

27 or face termination. However, the \$200 monthly surcharge, which starts in November, may have the same effect.

"This surcharge will be necessary to address the financial risk the decision to not vaccinate is creating for our company," Bastian said in a memo to employees.

The surcharge will only apply to employees who don't get vaccinated and won't be levied for spouses or dependents, a Delta spokeswoman said.

Delta is self-insured and sets premiums for its plans, which are administered by UnitedHealthcare. The company spokeswoman had said the average hospital stay costs \$40,000, contradicting the figure that Bastian used in his memo, and Delta later said both figures reflected a range of the average bill.

Bastian said that 75% of Delta employees are vaccinated, up from 72% in mid-July. He said the aggressiveness of the leading strain of the virus "means we need to get many

more of our people vaccinated, and as close to 100% as possible."

"I know some of you may be taking a wait-and-see approach or waiting for full (Food and Drug Administration) approval," he told employees. "With this week's announcement that the FDA has granted full approval for the Pfizer vaccine, the time for you to get vaccinated is now."

A growing number of companies including Chevron Corp. and drugstore chain CVS announced they will require workers to get vaccinated after Monday's FDA decision.

United and Delta already require new hires to be vaccinated. Two smaller carriers, Hawaiian and Frontier, have said they will require either vaccination or regular testing for current employees. Other major U.S. airlines, including American and Southwest, said Wednesday that they are encouraging employees to get vaccinated but have not required it.

## Cruise lines require vaccinations and tests

**MIAMI** (AP)—Joel Steckler was eager for his first cruise in more than a year and a half, and he chose the ship that just two months ago became the first to accept passengers again after a long pandemic shutdown.

Steckler was fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and that was enough to resume cruising, under initial guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Now, the 63-year-old from Long Island, New York, is going to postpone the trip he had planned for Saturday amid new, tighter guidelines prompted by the delta-variant-fueled surge in cases and breakthrough infections.

"You just have to make a personal decision," said Steckler, who takes medication that

suppresses his immune system and changed his plans after consulting his doctor. "You don't want to be in a position where you are sick on a cruise and you have to fly home or somehow get home."

Cruise lines have detected infections among vaccinated crew members and passengers, including in an elderly traveler who recently died. Last Friday, the CDC began advising travelers who are at a higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness to avoid cruises. It is also recommending that passengers show both a recent negative COVID test and proof they've been immunized.

In addition to the surging delta virus, the CDC changed its cruise guidelines for high-risk groups because of the close

proximity of ship passengers, the limited options for care on board and the challenges of medically evacuating travelers at sea, Centers spokeswoman Kristen Nordlund said Tuesday.

Some cruise lines—and cruise destinations—are also revising their own guidelines.

Starting Sept. 3, the Bahamas—a favored stop for cruises—is requiring all passengers 12 and older to be vaccinated against COVID-19 as a condition for ships to dock. That has prompted companies including Disney Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean and Carnival to announce this week that they are adopting the same requirement. The companies will ask for a government vaccination card or a record from a health care provider.

# Nation

## US says 1.5K Americans may still await Kabul evacuations

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday that as many as 1,500 Americans may be awaiting evacuation from Afghanistan, a figure that suggests the U.S. may accomplish its highest priority for the Kabul airlift—rescuing U.S. citizens—ahead of President Joe Biden's Tuesday deadline despite growing concerns of terror threats targeting the airport.

Untold thousands of at-risk Afghans, however, still are struggling to get into the Kabul airport, while many thousands of other Afghans already have been flown to safety in 12 days of round-the-clock flights.

On Wednesday, several of the Americans working phones and pulling strings to get out former Afghan colleagues, women's advocates, journalists and other

vulnerable Afghans said they have seen little concrete U.S. action so far to get those Afghans past Taliban checkpoints and through U.S.-controlled airport gates to promised evacuation flights.

"It's 100% up to the Afghans to take these risks and try to fight their way out," said Sunil Varghese, policy director with the International Refugee Assistance Project.



In this image provided by the Department of Defense, two paratroopers assigned to the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division conduct security while a C-130 Hercules takes off during an evacuation operation in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021. AP

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### New NY governor adds 12,000 deaths to publicized COVID tally

**ALBANY, N.Y.** (AP)—Delivering another blow to what's left of former Gov. Andrew Cuomo's legacy, New York's new governor acknowledged on her first day in office that the state has had nearly 12,000 more deaths from COVID-19 than Cuomo told the public. "The public deserves a clear, honest picture of what's happening. And that's whether it's good or bad, they need to know the truth. And that's how we restore confidence," Gov. Kathy Hochul said on NPR. In its first daily update on the outbreak Tuesday evening, Hochul's office reported that nearly 55,400 people have died of the coronavirus in New York based on death certificate data submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That's up from about 43,400 that Cuomo reported to the public as of Monday, his last day in office. The Democrat who was once widely acclaimed for his leadership during the COVID-19 outbreak resigned in the face of an impeachment drive after being accused of sexually harassing at least 11 women, allegations he disputed.

#### Court upholds death sentence for church shooter Dylann Roof

**RICHMOND, Va.** (AP)—A federal appeals court Wednesday upheld Dylann Roof's conviction and death sentence for the 2015 racist slayings of nine members of a Black South Carolina congregation, saying the legal record cannot even capture the "full horror" of what he did. A unanimous three-judge panel of the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond rejected arguments that the young white man should have been ruled incompetent to stand trial in the shootings at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston. In 2017, Roof became the first person in the U.S. sentenced to death for a federal hate

crime. Authorities have said Roof opened fire during the closing prayer of a Bible study at the church, raining down dozens of bullets on those assembled. He was 21 at the time. Roof's lawyers said his convictions and death sentence should be vacated or his case should be sent back to court for a "proper competency evaluation." The 4th Circuit found that the trial judge did not commit an error when he found Roof was competent to stand trial and issued a scathing rebuke of Roof's crimes.

#### Crews struggle to stop fire bearing down on Lake Tahoe

**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif.** (AP)—A Northern California fire that gutted hundreds of homes advanced toward Lake Tahoe on Wednesday as thousands of firefighters tried to box in the flames, and a thick yellow haze of the nation's worst air enveloped tourists. In Southern California, at least a dozen homes and outbuildings were damaged or destroyed after a fire broke out Wednesday afternoon and quickly ran through tinder-dry brush in mountains northeast of Los Angeles. Evacuations were ordered for about 1,000 people. Crews mounted an air attack to keep the South Fire from the tiny communities of Lytle Creek and Scotland near the Cajon Pass in San Bernardino County. By nightfall, the fire appeared to be mostly contained. To the north, a new fire erupted in the Sierra Nevada foothills and quickly burned at least 1,000 acres of land near New Melones Lake in Calaveras County, prompting evacuations. Meanwhile, the Caldor Fire spread to within 20 miles (32 kilometers) southwest of Lake Tahoe, eating its way through rugged timberlands and "knocking on the door" of the basin that straddles the California-Nevada state line, California's state fire chief Thom Porter warned this week.



# Asia

## Duterte confirms he'll run for Philippines VP in 2022

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Tough-talking Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has confirmed rumblings that he will run next year for vice president, in what critics say is an attempt at an end-run around constitutional term limits.

Duterte, who is notorious for his vulgar rhetoric and crackdown on illegal drugs, which has killed thousands of mostly petty suspects, said in comments broadcast Wednesday that he will run for vice president to “continue the crusade.”

“I will run for vice president,” he said. “I’m worried about the drugs, insurgency. Well, number one is insurgency, then criminality, drugs.”

The Philippines has been struggling through the COVID-19 pandemic, with rising infections and death rates and a slow vaccination rollout, but Duterte’s popularity ratings have remained high.

Polls suggest that running Duterte in tandem with his daughter, Sara Duterte, currently the mayor of Davao City, as the presidential candidate would be a strong pairing, said Manila-based political analyst Richard Heydarian.

The idea of the two running together has been discussed since 2019, he said, though Duterte advisers have reportedly said that he has suggested he might not run for vice president if his daughter decides to announce a bid for president.

“The campaign for Sara Duterte has more or less kicked off, it seems, almost irrespective of what Duterte’s position will be,” Heydarian said. “A Duterte/Duterte tandem is increasingly looking like the formidable team to beat in the next year’s elections.”

Further muddying the wa-

ters, however, Sara Duterte posted on Facebook later Wednesday that her father had told her he would run for vice president with his former aide, Senator Christopher “Bong” Go running for president.

She did not address her own aspirations, but said her father and Go should announce publicly that they would run together if they have made that decision.

“I respectfully advise them to stop talking about me and make me the reason for them running or not running,” she wrote.

Philippine presidents are limited by the 1987 Constitution to a single six-year term. At least two former presidents, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, have made successful runs for lower public offices after serving as president, but not for vice president.

If Duterte goes ahead with his run, it will likely face court challenges from the opposition, though Heydarian noted the Supreme Court has strongly supported the president’s moves in the past.

A new opposition coalition, I-Sambayan, whose name means One Nation, said Duterte’s decision came as “no surprise,” and made the coalition “more determined in unifying the democratic forces in responding to the challenge.”

“It shows a clear mockery of our constitution and democratic process,” the group said. “The candidacy is both legally and morally wrong, and we trust that the Filipino people will realize his brazen, selfish and self-serving motives.”

Duterte, 76, had previously hinted that he may run for vice president, and his confirmation Wednesday came after a

senior official of his PDP-Laban party on Tuesday said that the president had agreed to run as its candidate.

Duterte “agreed to make the sacrifice and heed the clamor of the people” to run in the May 9 national elections, said Karlo Nograles, PDP-Laban’s executive vice president.

The vice president is elected separately from the president under Philippine law. Those who serve in the post could potentially be propelled to the top role if the president dies or is incapacitated for any reason.

If elected vice president, the move would be reminiscent of the machinations of Russian President Vladimir Putin, who Duterte once called his “favorite hero,” to hold on to power despite being constitutionally barred from seeking a third consecutive term as president in 2008.

Instead, Dmitry Medvedev was elected president and Putin assumed the nominally subservient position of prime minister from 2008 to 2012. Putin was then reelected president in 2012, and Medvedev slid into the prime minister role.

“This is not to say that, should Sara Duterte become the president, that she will be essentially proxy for the president,” Heydarian said. “In Davao the two were together in charge (and) there were significant divergences in approaches and policy differences ... so we may see some iteration of that, if ever the tandem makes it to the presidency.”

After the news broke that Duterte said he would run, opposition Sen. Risa Hontiveros warned that electing Duterte as vice president would mean a continuation of his authoritarian policies.

“Next year a lot is really at stake,” she said on the ABS-CBN News Channel.

## Japan expands virus emergency areas

**TOKYO** (AP)—Japan expanded its coronavirus state of emergency on Wednesday for a second week in a row, adding eight more prefectures as a surge in infections fueled by the delta variant strains the country’s health care system.

The government last week extended the state of emergency until Sept. 12 and expanded the areas covered to 13 prefectures from six including Tokyo. With four new

prefectures added to a separate “quasi-emergency” status, 33 of Japan’s 47 prefectures are now under some type of emergency measures.

Eight prefectures were upgraded from quasi-emergency status to a full emergency. They include Hokkaido and Miyagi in the north, Aichi and Gifu in central Japan, and Hiroshima and Okayama in the west.

“In order to protect the

people’s lives, the priority is to maintain the health care system,” Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said as he announced the emergency. “In order to overcome this crisis led by the delta strain, I seek further cooperation from everyone.”

Japan’s state of emergency relies on requirements for eateries to close at 8 p.m. and not serve alcohol, but the measures are increasingly defied.

# World

## 12 dead in attacks on ethnic communities in Nicaragua

**MANAGUA, Nicaragua** (AP)—Settlers have again attacked Indigenous communities in Bosawas nature reserve on Nicaragua’s Caribbean coast, killing a dozen members of the Miskito and Mayangna people, activists and environmentalist charged Wednesday.

The reserve has been hit by illegal mining and logging despite its status as a

protected area, and activists have reported several attacks on Indigenous people.

Environmentalist Amaru Ruiz, director of the Del Río Foundation, blamed the latest assault on settlers who have invaded indigenous lands.

“It was a massacre,” Ruiz said. “Residents have so far confirmed the deaths of nine Miskito people and three Mayangnas.”

The Center for Legal Assistance to Indigenous Peoples said in a statement that Indigenous residents were attacked “with machetes and guns, and were tortured. They hung their bodies from a tree.”

The Nicaraguan government had not confirmed the killings. Ruiz said authorities had not been to the remote community where they occurred.



### HARRY POTTER FIRE

This Edinburgh cafe where author J.K. Rowling wrote some of the Harry Potter books has been damaged in a fire. The Elephant House in the Scottish capital was blackened by a blaze which broke out at the patisserie next door on Tuesday. Photo shows firefighters at the Elephant House Cafe in Edinburgh, Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2021.

ANDREW MILLIGAN/PA VIA AP

## Tanzania says 5 dead in gun battle near French Embassy

**DODOMA, Tanzania** (AP)—Tanzania’s president on Wednesday said five people are dead, including three police officers, after a gun battle with an armed man near the French Embassy in Dar es Salaam. It was not immediately clear whether the shootout in the heavily guarded diplomatic area was a terror attack. Inspector general of police Simon

Sirro told reporters the armed man was a foreigner and police believe he was from Somalia. Sirro also warned the attack could be linked to the jihadist insurgency in neighboring Mozambique, where a growing number of African nations are jointly pursuing the fighters.

The confrontation occurred shortly after President Samia Suluhu Hassan addressed security officials

in another part of the city, Tanzania’s commercial hub. The president later said three police officers, a member of the auxiliary police and the armed man were killed, and she ordered an investigation.

The U.S. Embassy in a security alert warned citizens to avoid the area. The shootout occurred not far from the scene of the deadly bombing in 1998 at the U.S. Embassy.

## WHO team say search for COVID origins has stalled

**LONDON** (AP)—The international scientists dispatched to China by the World Health Organization to find out where the coronavirus came from said Wednesday the search has stalled and warned that the window of opportunity for solving the mystery is “closing fast.”

Meanwhile, a U.S. intelligence review ordered up by President Joe Biden proved inconclusive about the virus’s origin, including whether it jumped from an animal to a human or escaped from a

Chinese lab, The Washington Post reported Wednesday.

In a commentary published in the journal Nature, the WHO-recruited experts said the origins investigation is at “a critical juncture” requiring urgent collaboration but has instead come to a standstill. They noted among other things that Chinese officials are still reluctant to share some raw data, citing concerns over patient confidentiality.

Earlier this year, WHO sent a team of experts to Wuhan, where the first hu-

man COVID-19 cases were detected in December 2019, to probe what might have triggered the pandemic now blamed for nearly 4.5 million deaths worldwide, with more than 10,000 people a day succumbing despite more than 5 billion doses of vaccine administered.

In their analysis, published in March, the WHO team concluded the virus probably jumped to humans from animals, and they described the possibility of a laboratory leak as “extremely unlikely.”



# Off The Wall

## 8th-graders lead effort to pardon wrongly convicted 'witch'

**BOSTON (AP)**—More than three centuries after a Massachusetts woman was wrongly convicted of witchcraft and sentenced to death, she's finally on the verge of being exonerated—thanks to a curious eighth-grade civics class.

State Sen. Diana DiZoglio, a Democrat from Methuen, has introduced legislation to clear the name of Elizabeth Johnson Jr., who was condemned in 1693 at the height of the Salem Witch Trials but never executed.

DiZoglio says she was inspired by sleuthing done by a group of 13- and 14-year-olds at North Andover Middle School. Civics teacher Carrie LaPierre's students painstakingly researched Johnson and the steps that would need to be taken to make sure she was formally pardoned.

"It is important that we work to correct history," DiZoglio said Wednesday. "We will never be able to change what happened to these victims, but at the very least, we can set the

record straight."

If lawmakers approve the measure, Johnson will be the last accused witch to be cleared, according to Witches of Massachusetts Bay, a group devoted to the history and lore of the 17th-century witch hunts.

Twenty people from Salem and neighboring towns were killed and hundreds of others accused during a frenzy of Puritan injustice that began in 1692, stoked by superstition, fear of disease and strangers, scapegoating and petty jealousies. Nineteen were hanged, and one man was crushed to death by rocks.

In the 328 years that have ensued, dozens of suspects officially were cleared, including Johnson's own mother, the daughter of a minister whose conviction eventually was reversed. But for some reason, Johnson's name wasn't included in various legislative attempts to set the record straight.

Johnson was 22 when she was caught up in the hysteria of the witch trials and sen-

tenced to hang. It never happened: Then-Gov. William Phips threw out her punishment as the magnitude of the gross miscarriages of justice in Salem sank in.

But because she wasn't

among those whose convictions were formally set aside, hers still technically stands.

"It showed how superstitious people still were after the witch trials," said Artem Likhonov, 14, a rising high school

freshman who participated in the school project. "It's not like after it ended people didn't believe in witches anymore. They still thought she was a witch and they wouldn't exonerate her."

DiZoglio's bill would tweak 1957 legislation, amended in 2001, to include Johnson among others who were pardoned after being wrongly accused and convicted of witchcraft.

## Soccer-loving Pope Francis gets a new toy: a foosball table

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—Pope Francis has received dozens of soccer jerseys and game balls during his eight-year pontificate but he got a new football-themed toy on Wednesday: his very own foosball table.

Francis played a round on the table that was presented to him at the end of his general audience by representatives of a Tuscany-based table football association, Sport Toscana Calcio Balilla in Altopascio.

The mayor of Altopascio, Sara D'Ambrosio, wrote on Facebook that the table was designed to be inclusive and work well for people with physical disabilities to encourage their participation in sport.

The Argentine-born pope is a well-known lover of soccer and his beloved San Lorenzo soccer club in Buenos Aires. He has long promoted sport as a way to promote solidarity and inclusion, especially for young people.



Pope Francis plays with Natale Tonini, president of Sport Toscana Calcio Balilla association, at the end of the weekly general audience, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021. Francis played a round on the table that was presented to him by representatives of the association, that created a special Foosball table designed to be inclusive, for people with physical disabilities, to encourage their participation in sport.

(VATICAN MEDIA VIA AP)

### OFFBEAT BRIEFS

#### Giant rubber ducky takes flight; where will it land next?

**BELFAST, Maine (AP)**—A 25-foot inflatable duck named Joy disappeared over the weekend, as mysteriously as it arrived, after bringing days of delight to a seaside Maine community. The rubber ducky was removed from the harbor sometime Saturday, likely because of concerns about Tropical Storm Henri, Belfast Harbor Master Katherine Given was quoted as saying in the Bangor Daily News. Despite the weather concerns, Given said, people were upset to see the duck leave the harbor. The duck's arrival in the harbor two weekends ago was, and remains, a mystery. But Given said she received an anonymous letter from someone claiming to be responsible. "JOY simply is fowl play. In this day in age of such bitter divisiveness in our country, we wanted to put forth a reminder of our commonalities instead of our differences," the letter said. "Nothing embodies childhood more than being in a warm bath with your rubber ducky — the joy of not having a care in the world other than having to remember to wash behind our ears." Will the ducky return? That's not known—but the letter alluded to the duck landing somewhere else after Belfast.

#### Paw patrol: German police revive girl's

#### dropped Chihuahua

**BERLIN (AP)**—No job is too small for Hamburg police. Officers in the German city found themselves having to perform CPR on a Chihuahua last week after a distraught girl came rushing into a police station saying her pet had stopped breathing after she accidentally dropped it. After checking its vitals, officers cupped the dog's nose to provide mouth-to-snout resuscitation and massaged its tiny heart all the way to a nearby veterinary clinic. In a statement Friday, Hamburg police said vets later called the precinct to say the dog was in a stable condition.


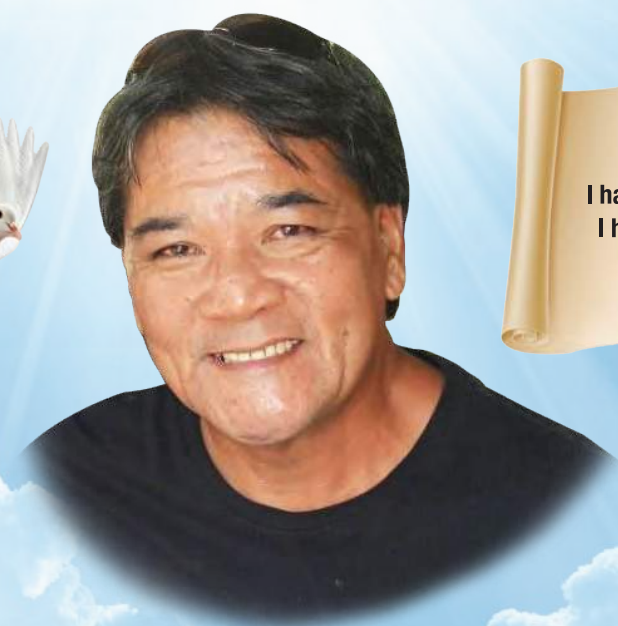
#### Bull wanders onto California freeway, shuts down traffic

**RANCHO CUCAMONGA, Calif. (AP)**—Traffic was halted on a Southern California highway when a bull that was grazing along the shoulder wandered into lanes. Video aired by ABC 7 showed the large bull meandering on northbound Interstate 15 in Rancho Cucamonga Wednesday evening with two California Highway Patrol vehicles in slow pursuit. Highway patrol officers stopped traffic and eventually corralled the animal off the highway northeast of Los Angeles. About an hour later Caltrans tweeted that the bull had been "safely recovered .... And fed." All lanes were reopened. It wasn't clear where the bull had come from or how it had gotten loose.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

# †ALDEBERT CONCEPCION

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS AL/ALBERT/A'BECK  
OCTOBER 22, 1953 - AUGUST 3, 2021

"I have fought  
the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7

We, the family of the late +Aldebert Concepcion, wish to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all our friends and family for your prayers, sympathy, and acts of kindness shown to our family during our time of mourning. We thank you for your support at this difficult time. We are forever grateful.

*Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
**CELINA ATTAO CONCEPCION**  
**ALDEBERT JR. & CARMINADELA**  
**CHRISTOPHER & NATSU**  
**KIMBERLY & COLE**  
**MICHAEL & SHERYL**



# Science & Technology

## China's Mars rover soldiers on after completing program

BEIJING (AP)—China's Zhurong Mars rover is soldiering on after completing its initial program to explore the red planet and search for frozen water that could provide clues as to whether it once supported life.

China's National Space Administration said on its

website Friday that Zhurong completed its 90-day program on Aug. 15 and was in excellent technical condition and fully charged.

It said it would continue to explore the area known as Utopia Planitia where it landed on May 14. Zhurong

has been consistently sending back photos and data via the Tianwen-1 orbiter that crosses over it once a day.

After the United States, China is the second country to land and sustainably operate a spacecraft on Mars, where days are 40 minutes longer

than on Earth.

At 1.85 meters (6 feet) in height, Zhurong is significantly smaller than the American Perseverance rover, which is exploring the planet with a tiny helicopter. NASA expects its rover to collect its first sample in July for return to Earth as early as 2031.

Concurrently, China is as-

sembling its permanent space station, with three astronauts now aboard the Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, core that was put into orbit on April 29. Two of the astronauts completed their second space walk on Friday. All three are due to return to Earth in September and be replaced by a new crew.

China earlier launched two

smaller experimental space stations. It has been excluded from the International Space Station largely at the insistence of the United States, which is wary of the Chinese space program's secrecy and close military links. Congressional approval is also required for any cooperation between NASA and the CNSA.



Attendees at a ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of the ruling Chinese Communist Party pass by a screen depicting China's Mars spacecraft with its rover landing in Beijing on July 1, 2021. China's Zhurong Mars rover is soldiering on after completing its initial program to explore the red planet and search for frozen water that could provide clues as to whether it once supported life, according to an announcement by China's National Space Administration on Friday, Aug. 20, 2021.

(AP PHOTO/SAM MCNEIL)

## Study: Climate change makes European flooding more likely

BERLIN (AP)—Scientists say that global warming makes the kind of extreme rainfall that caused deadly flash flooding in western Europe last month more likely, though it remains unclear exactly how much.

At least 220 people died in Germany and Belgium on July 14-15 when swollen streams turned into raging rivers, sweeping away houses, roads and bridges, and causing billions of euros (dollars) in damage.

A study released Tuesday by the World Weather Attribution group used historical records and computer simulations to examine how temperatures affected rainfall from the late 19th century to the present. While the study hasn't been assessed by independent scientists yet, its authors use widely accepted methods to conduct rapid assessments of specific weather events such as floods, droughts and heat waves.

It found that across a large

strip of western Europe—stretching from the Netherlands to Switzerland—the amount of rainfall in a single day increased by 3% to 19% over the period, during which global temperatures increased by 1.2 degrees Celsius (2.2 degrees Fahrenheit).

Experts say that for every 1 degree Celsius (1.8 F) the planet warms, the air can absorb 7% more water. When that water is released, it causes more extreme rainfall.

## What to do if creeping obsolescence claims your PC

**Q**: Microsoft keeps insisting that I install a newer version of Windows 10 (I have Version 1909.) But after I do, my PC crashes and I get the error message "Kmode exception not handled." I then request that the previous version of Windows 10 be reinstalled, and everything works again until the next time Windows tries to upgrade.

I have run Windows 10 diagnostics and disabled the "fast startup" option — both suggestions I've read online—but nothing helps. I have an HP PC that's been upgraded with an Intel main circuit board called a Desktop Board DH67BL. What can I do?

**A**: Your PC suffers from creeping obsolescence—a situation in which you are able to keep running it for a long time, and then abruptly you can't.

What happened? Intel says that your main circuit board, which was introduced in 2010, is not designed to work with any Windows operating system newer than Windows 8.1 (see [tinyurl.com/5nmknsh](http://tinyurl.com/5nmknsh)). That said, some experts have issued cautionary advice: This circuit board should work with Windows 10, but users may experience some compatibility problems.

It appears that those compatibility issues have reached a critical point in the next version of Windows 10. The Kmode (Kernel Mode) er-

### TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune

Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.



ror means that your system crashed due to a failure at the heart of the operating system.

So, if you can't upgrade, why can't you just keep using Windows 10 Version 1909? Because three newer versions of Windows 10 have been introduced since Version 1909 debuted in late 2019. As a result, Version 1909 is officially obsolete and hasn't received any security updates from Microsoft since its arbitrary "end of service" date in May (see [tinyurl.com/45tavj39](http://tinyurl.com/45tavj39)).

Of course, you could take the security risk of continuing to use Version 1909. But then you'll be caught in the roller coaster ride of Microsoft's automatic upgrade program. The new version of Windows 10 will eventually install (you can't stop it), which will cause your system to crash and Version 1909 to be reinstalled—over and over.

A better alternative is to get a new PC—or at least a new main circuit board for your current PC—that can run the latest version of Windows 10 (Version 21H1, introduced in May.)

**Q**: I pay Microsoft an annual subscription fee for

its MSN Premium service, which I thought offered technical support via a phone number. But when I called, I was referred to help.microsoft.com, which I found to be of no help. If I choose not to renew the service, will I lose my MSN Premium e-mail accounts?

**A**: Microsoft gives you the option of continuing to use your current "msn.com" e-mail addresses if you quit MSN Premium. You would need to access your e-mail account through the Outlook.com website, Microsoft's current free e-mail service (see [tinyurl.com/5fc7t8xy](http://tinyurl.com/5fc7t8xy)).

Are there reasons to keep MSN Premium? Not that I can think of. Besides the help service you found unhelpful, MSN Premium provides you with security software and several e-mail accounts—things you can now get for free. For example, you can find solutions to many common computer problems by doing a Google search. And you can easily get free security software (see [tinyurl.com/4kb444b](http://tinyurl.com/4kb444b)) and free e-mail accounts (see [tinyurl.com/4azunuj](http://tinyurl.com/4azunuj)).

### Science Matters

## Hitchhikers' guide to the manta rays

Various "hitchhiker" fish have been found associating with manta rays, including species not previously known to accompany the mantas.

Remoras clinging to the under side of a manta ray



Reef manta ray (*Mobula alfredi*)  
Up to 5.5 m (18 ft.) across

Relatives of sharks, feed on shrimp, krill and small floating crabs

Cephalic fins on head direct water into mouth

Giant trevally

Little remora

Rainbow runner

Chinese trumpetfish

Giant remora

Pilot fish

Red snapper

Cobia

Sharksucker remora

Golden trevally

Bluefin trevally

Sharksucker remora (juvenile)

New study was a survey of species in Maldives (Indian Ocean)

**Hitchhikers** may only get protection from predators by the ray but give it no benefit (commensal relationship)

**Remoras and other species** clean the ray of parasites (mutualist relationship)

Source: Aimee E. Nicholson-Jack of The Manta Trust; University of Bristol Vet Science School  
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service © 2021 TNS

### Symbiosis: Species living together\*



**Mutualism**  
Both of the organisms benefit



**Commensalism**  
One benefits; the other is unaffected



**Parasitism**  
One benefits; the other is harmed

Sometimes occasional, sometimes essential long-term association



# Life & Style

## Nirvana sued by man who was nude baby on 'Nevermind' cover

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 30-year-old man who appeared nude at 4 months old in 1991 on the cover of Nirvana's "Nevermind" album is suing the band and others, alleging the image is child pornography they have profited from.

The lawsuit, filed by Spencer Elden on Tuesday in federal court in California, alleges that Nirvana and the record labels behind "Nevermind" "intentionally commercially marketed Spencer's child pornography and leveraged the shocking nature of his image to promote themselves and their music

at his expense."

The lawsuit says Elden has suffered "lifelong damages" from the ubiquitous image of him naked underwater appearing to swim after a dollar bill on a fish hook.

It seeks at least \$150,000 from each of more than a dozen defendants, including the Kurt Cobain estate, surviving Nirvana members Krist Novoselic and Dave Grohl and Geffen Records.

Emails seeking comment from representatives for the defendants were not immediately returned.

Elden is filing the lawsuit

now because he "finally has the courage to hold these actors accountable," one of his attorneys, Maggie Mabie, told The Associated Press Wednesday.

Mabie said despite the photo being 30 years old, the lawsuit is within the statute of limitations of federal child pornography law for several reasons, including the fact that the image is still in circulation and earning money.

Elden also wants any new versions of the album altered.

"If there is a 30th anniversary re-release, he wants for the entire world not to see his

genitals," Mabie said.

When the cover was shot, Nirvana was a little-known grunge band with no sense they were making a generation-defining album in "Nevermind," their first major

label release, whose songs included "Smells Like Teen Spirit," "Come as You Are" and "Lithium."

Elden's father was a friend

of the photographer, Kirk Weddle, who took pictures of several swimming babies in several scenarios at the Rose Bowl Aquatic Center in Pasadena, California.

## Witness: R. Kelly made victims write fake blackmail letters

NEW YORK (AP)—R&B hitmaker R. Kelly's forced his girlfriends to write fake blackmail letters that he could use to defend himself in case he got charged with sexually abusing them, one of his accusers testified on Wednesday at his New York City trial.

The witness, testifying as a "Jane Doe" in federal court in Brooklyn, read for the jury parts of one letter in which she told Kelly that if he tried to break up with her, "I'm going to tell everyone you raped me. ... I'm going to say you raped me since I

was a minor."

Her notes to him also warned that "she would spank herself really hard"—hard enough to leave bruises—so she could accuse him of beating her.

After the defense confronted the witness with the letters, she insisted the abuse was real and that the writings were a ploy engineered by Kelly "to protect him in a trial like this from very serious charges."

The woman, now 23, had previously detailed how she was groomed and exploited by Kelly starting in 2015

when she was a 17-year-old aspiring singer. The defense sought to discredit her with the letters and other evidence it claims showed her parents were behind a scheme to take advantage of Kelly's fame.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Geddes responded by giving a point-by-point rundown of her testimony—including allegations that he intentionally isolated and demeaned her with perverted "punishments." She then asked the witness whether the blame fell "on your parents or the defendant?"

## Letitia Wright injured filming stunt on 'Black Panther 2'



This image released by Disney-Marvel Studios shows Letitia Wright in a scene from "Black Panther." AP

(AP)—"Black Panther" star Letitia Wright is being treated in a hospital after sustaining minor injuries on the Boston set of "Wakanda Forever."

A Marvel spokesperson said in a statement Wednesday that the incident happened while filming a stunt for the sequel.

Wright is expected to be released from the hospital soon.

Wright is reprising her role as Shuri in "Wakanda Forever," which is being directed by Ryan Coogler. The 27-year-old British actor was a breakout in the first film as the science-minded sister of

the late Chadwick Boseman's T'Challa.

Her injuries are not expected to delay production on the sequel, which is slated to be released in July 2022.

The entertainment trade website Deadline first reported the news.

## OnlyFans reverses explicit content ban after outcry

By TALI ARBEL and  
BARBARA ORTUTAY  
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITERS

OnlyFans says it has suspended a plan to ban sexually explicit content following an outcry from its creators and advocates for sex workers.

The subscription site said in a prepared statement Wednesday that the planned ban was "no longer required due to banking partners' assurances that OnlyFans can support all genres of creators" and declined to answer further questions.

OnlyFans had said last Thursday that it would ban explicit content starting Oct. 1, blaming policies of banks and payment processors for the policy change. "The new rules are necessary to comply with the requirements of these financial institutions and are the only way to help ensure the long-term sustainability of OnlyFans," the company said in a message to users last week.

OnlyFans has become famous as a place where sex workers can get paid in a safer way as well as a space for ce-

lebrities to interact with fans.

Last week's abrupt change upset the site's creators, many of whom threatened to move to another website. A lot of sex workers joined OnlyFans during the pandemic when in-person venues shut down or became more dangerous because of COVID-19. The site has been tremendously lucrative for some people, allowing them to earn thousands every month. OnlyFans says it has 130 million users and 2 million creators who have collectively earned \$5 billion.

## Married matchmaker tries to sink resulting romance

DEAR ABBY: I have been friends with "Carolyn" since grammar school. We are in our early 40s now. She's married; I'm divorced. Two years after my divorce, she introduced me to a nice man I'll call "Don." Don and I have grown closer. He recently told Carolyn how he feels about me and that he wants to marry me.

After he told her, Carolyn started sending him messages letting him know that she is attracted to him. She even told him some confidential things about me that I shared only with her. Don has shown me the messages she sent and told her he feels uncomfortable about her coming on to him. She dismissed it as "joking." I plan to spend the rest of my life with Don. I feel betrayed and hurt by Carolyn's actions. Should I end our friendship?

BOTHERED IN OHIO

DEAR BOTHERED: Your friendship with Carolyn ended when she not only put the moves on your boyfriend, but also tried to sabotage your romance by revealing things you had confided to her. What she did was no joke. I see no reason for a confrontation, but you and Don should distance yourselves from Carolyn.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I was diagnosed with a brain tumor six months ago. All of my friends and co-workers know. My family does not. I hesitated to tell them because my father was gravely ill

(he has since recovered), my sister doesn't like bad news, my daughter had a difficult time with my last brain tumor 10 years ago, and my son is in the military. There is nothing they can do.

I finally have a plan of action from my doctors. I will be having radiation and will hold off on surgery to see if it works. My question is: Should I bring my family in on this? I desperately want to. I know I'd be devastated if another family member kept this kind of information from me. Or would telling them be selfish on my part? I mean, why worry them?

WAFFLING OUT WEST

DEAR WAFFLING: I'm sorry for your diagnosis. I hope you realize, because you have been around this track before, that you may beat this again. Because you want and need the support of your family, please let them know what has been going on. Doing that is NOT "selfish." If your cancer does not respond to treatment, how do you think they would feel that you had kept the news from them? Tell your father and your children so they can support you through this. As to your ostrich of a sister who "doesn't like bad news," allow her to continue living in ignorance. She would be of little, if any, help to you during this stressful time. I wish you all the best.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I recently invited two couples over for dinner. After the meal, I asked if anyone would like to go for a short boat

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



ride on our lake. One of the couples wanted to go, but the other woman said she didn't want to, so we didn't. What would have been a better way to handle this so that we could have gone?

SAILING AWAY IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SAILING: Boating isn't for everyone. Because she wasn't willing, you could have offered your guest the television remote control and told her the rest of you would be back in 45 minutes if she wished to stay.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



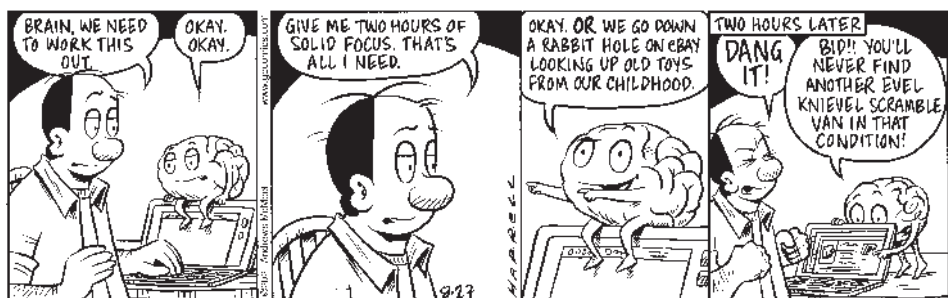
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

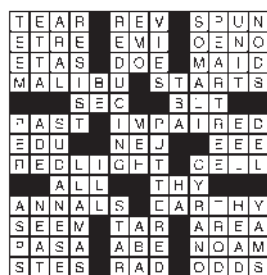


## CROSSWORD

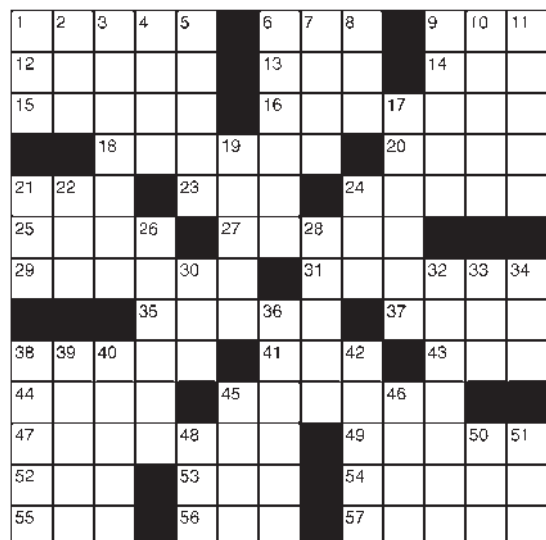
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Use  
6 Efron of "Parkland"  
9 — chi  
12 Pooh's creator  
13 Farm female  
14 Days of yore  
15 1945 conference site  
16 Sneeze trigger  
18 Alpine songs  
20 Asia's — Sea  
21 Dorm VIPs  
23 — Paulo  
24 Disney mermaid  
25 Gift tag word  
27 Long-legged shorebird  
29 Vienna's river  
31 African desert  
35 Triangular letter  
37 Choir voices  
38 "The Creation" composer
- DOWN**
- 41 Docu-mentarian  
43 Leary's drug  
44 List-ending abbr.  
45 Number puzzle  
47 Author Isabel  
49 Protuberances  
52 Chou En-  
53 Small batteries  
54 Not moving  
55 Compass dir.  
56 B'way show purchase
- DOWN**
- 1 "Little Women" woman  
2 By way of  
3 Olympic sprinter  
4 Fascinated by  
5 Starring roles  
6 Nut  
7 Hole  
8 Animation frame  
9 Country singer  
10 Aquarium growth  
11 Pastoral opus  
17 Singer Kitt  
19 Painter's stand  
21 "Mayberry"  
22 Coach Par-seghian  
24 In the style of  
26 Mix-up  
28 "Let me repeat ..."  
30 Oscar winner  
32 Refers  
33 ACLU concerns  
34 Help  
36 Most faithful  
38 Gets better  
39 Country store?  
40 New Haven collegian  
42 Funnel-shaped  
45 Minn. neighbor  
46 Hawaiian coffee  
48 Rebel Turner  
50 Before  
51 Rds.

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-27



## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Kayla Ewell, 36; Jessie Mei Li, 36; Sarah Chalke, 45; Chandra Wilson, 52.

**Happy Birthday:** You'll sail to victory if you stay on course, don't give up and make a point to enjoy the ride. Life is about achieving happiness, and it's your responsibility to take the initiative to engage in pastimes with people who add to your mental and emotional well-being. Put some muscle behind your words. Surpass your expectations. Your numbers are 3, 14, 22, 25, 32, 36, 46.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Listen to people you can count on to tell you the truth. Consider what makes you happy, healthy and wise. Spending time laboring over how to please others will leave you feeling uncertain on your future. Do what's best for you. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You'll have trouble making up your mind. Take time off, and give yourself a chance to chill. The more relaxed you are, the easier it will be to differentiate between what someone wants you to do and what you want. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Listen carefully. You'll be offered information that lacks detail. Don't let anger set in or put you in a compromising position. Look at the big picture, and you'll figure out a way to do your own thing and avoid interference. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Take better care of your health and well-being. Choose moderation over excess and patience over criticism. Look for a way to make your home more comfortable and entertaining. A

suggestion that leads to an unexpected change in direction looks promising. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Before you act, think matters through and look for solutions to keep the peace. It's better not to overreact or take sides. Be the logical person everyone looks to for guidance, and you'll gain respect. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Conversations will be entertaining and informative. Suggestions made will stimulate your mind and encourage you to participate in something requiring stamina and fortitude. Your instincts will help you outmaneuver anyone who challenges you. A friendly demeanor will help you keep things amicable. \*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Put more time and effort into self-development and home improvements. The difference it makes will save you money and encourage a healthier environment. Reconnect with someone who inspires you, and you will come up with an idea you can develop jointly. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Adopt change, and make it into a positive experience. Refuse to let negativity or your grievances be what's remembered when optimism will open doors and lead to new beginnings. Be innovative, and you'll discover something or someone who encourages progress. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** One step forward and three back. Refuse to get entangled in someone's plot. Do your own thing, and pay attention to detail. Question anything suspicious or remotely underhanded, and don't be

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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afraid to do what makes you happy. \*\*\*

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** A passionate approach to whatever you do will draw attention and support. Arrange to connect with someone who may pose a problem, and put your persuasive tactics to work on settling matters before they escalate. Take better care of your health. \*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Refuse to let your emotions take over. Look inward, and put your energy where it will help you the most. Physical fitness, personal growth and financial management will make a difference to the way you feel and what you pursue. \*\*

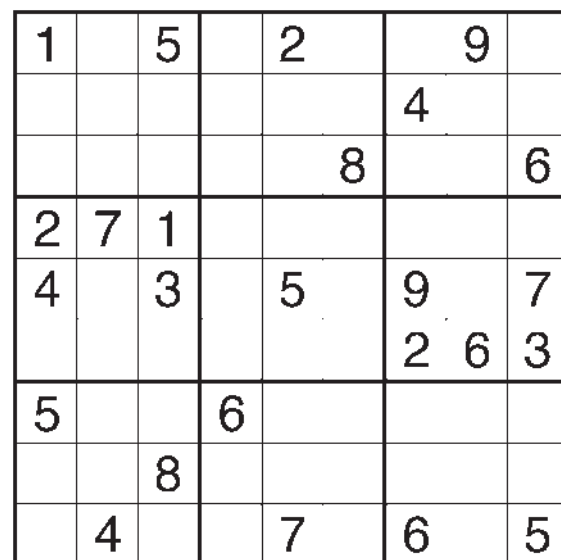
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Take the initiative to make things happen. Get involved in something that involves helping a cause that matters to you. The suggestions you make will be valued by someone influential. Handle cash, assets and passwords with care. \*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are efficient, dedicated and curious. You are outgoing and influential. ☺ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺ Aim high; start new projects. ☺ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



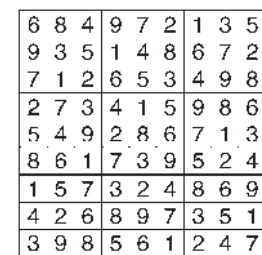
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

8/27

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

GALVANIZING

Solution: 9 letters

G G E N O I S R E M M I R O N  
N N N S U R G E M T E E B L P  
I I I E T N C O B D A R T U B  
T P L Z I U L O E L A G R A S  
S I L T I T N L A K T E R K L  
U P A A E D I M E T L R C P E  
R L T N R O R S R I O R R S  
P A S K C E A A B E R T O U K Y  
R Y Y E H C I O R R T T O O I  
O E R T R L M E O E C O L E E  
C R C I E O B S C U H L F N L  
E H A R T A I T R E A S E I T  
S T A U R O S T E E L Y I L T  
S P A I N T S U R F A C E N E  
S L I A N O I S U F F I D I K

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8/27

Alloy, Automobile, Barrier, Base, Bond, Brakes, Chain, Corrosion, Crystalline, Diffusion, Gate, Hooks, Immersion, In-Line, Iron, Kettle, Layer, Metal, Molten, Nails, Nuts, Paints, Piping, Plating, Process, Protect, Pure, Rebar, Recoiled, Rocks, Rusting, Sherardizing, Sink, Staircase, Steel, Structure, Surface, Tank, Thermal, Trailer, Urge

Yesterday's Answer: Nature

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# Orioles end 19-game skid by getting past Ohtani, Angels



**BALTIMORE**  
(AP)—After

19 consecutive losses, the Baltimore Orioles were ready to try just about anything.

Newcomer Chris Ellis found that out while preparing to make his first big league start.

"I was sitting at my locker, kind of just going over the lineup for the day, and I saw Trey Mancini walking though there with a bunch of sage. Everybody was getting a whiff of it," Ellis said. "Maybe we'll have to start doing that before every game."

The Orioles finally stopped their slide Wednesday night, rallying to beat Los Angeles 10-6 after a shaky start by Shohei Ohtani left the Angels' bullpen with too much to do.

The Angels were up 6-2 in the fourth inning and 6-4 when Ohtani left the game after the top of the sixth. Baltimore scored a run in the seventh and five in the eighth. Ramón Urias and Kelvin Gutierrez drew bases-loaded walks to put the Orioles up 7-6, and pinch-hitter Austin Hays added a two-run double.

The Orioles were two losses shy of the American League record for the longest skid — which they set themselves in 1988 when they started 0-21.

"The clubhouse is loud right now. There's a lot of people that are very excited, relieved," manager Brandon Hyde said. "It's good to hear our guys feel good about the game they just played."

Ohtani allowed three homers on the mound and struck out three times at the plate, but the Orioles still seemed headed to a 20th straight loss after Brandon Marsh hit his first career homer, a three-run shot in the fourth that made it 6-2.

## Giants 3, Mets 2

In New York, Jake McGee in-

duced a game-ending popup from Pete Alonso with the bases loaded, and San Francisco turned five double plays to beat freefalling New York.

Brandon Crawford hit a go-ahead, two-run double in the seventh inning after New York manager Luis Rojas gave starter Taijuan Walker an aggressive hook.

In the ninth, McGee jammed Alonso with a 1-2 fastball and his soft flare was caught easily on the infield by second baseman Tommy La Stella. It was McGee's 29th save.

Walker (7-9) overpowered San Francisco through six innings but was pulled in the seventh with 74 pitches after runners reached on an error by third baseman Jonathan Villar and a popup that fell between three Mets defenders in shallow center.

Tony Watson (5-3), the third of six Giants pitchers, got the win.

## Cardinals 3, Tigers 2

In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt homered twice and scored the game-ending run on Lars Nootbaar's single in the 10th inning as St. Louis beat Detroit.

Nootbaar lined a two-out single to right field off Michael Fulmer (5-6) in the 10th to score Goldschmidt, who had been intentionally walked.

Tigers pinch-hitter Harold Castro tied it 2-2 in the ninth with a soft single to center off closer Alex Reyes, who blew his third save in 31 chances.

T.J. McFarland (3-0) pitched a scoreless 10th.

Goldschmidt homered in the first and third innings.

## Rays 7, Phillies 4

In Philadelphia, Francisco Mejia hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the ninth inning, Brandon Lowe connected for his 30th of the season and AL

East-leading Tampa Bay beat slumping Philadelphia.

The Rays have won eight of nine.

Bryce Harper and Rhys Hoskins homered for the Phillies, who have lost six of eight.

Mejia broke a 4-4 tie with no outs in the ninth, driving an 0-2, 96-mph fastball from Phillies starter Zack Wheeler (10-9) into the second deck in right.

Collin McHugh (5-1) allowed the tying run in the eighth but pitched a scoreless ninth.

## Brewers 4, Reds 1

In Milwaukee, Brandon Woodruff struck out 10 in six shutout innings and Milwaukee extended its NL Central lead over Cincinnati to 9 1/2 games.

Avisail García hit an RBI double and made two big defensive plays in right field for the Brewers, who have won 12 of 15.

Woodruff (8-7) permitted only four hits and retired 13 straight batters during one stretch. He struck out four Reds, including Joey Votto, two times each.

Cincinnati starter Luis Castillo (7-13) gave up two runs and had six strikeouts in 6 1/3 innings.

## Astros 6, Royals 5, 10 innings

In Houston, Alex Bregman had two hits and an RBI in his first action in more than two months, and he scored the winning run in the 10th inning on a groundout by Jake Meyers to lift Houston over Kansas City.

Kyle Tucker singled with no outs in the 10th to send automatic runner Bregman to third. Meyers then hit a comebacker that struck pitcher Joel Payamps (0-3) and pulled him toward first base. Payamps tossed the ball to first for the meaningless out as Bregman slid home.

Kendall Graveman (5-0) struck out one in a scoreless 10th.

Whit Merrifield hit a grand slam with two outs in the seventh to put the Royals up 5-3.

## Cubs 5, Rockies 2, Game 1 Rockies 13, Cubs 10, 10 innings, Game 2

In Chicago, Ryan McMahon lofted a two-run homer in the 10th inning, Brendan Rodgers followed with a two-run double that gave him five RBIs for the game, and Colorado split a doubleheader with Chicago.

The Cubs won the opener 5-2 in a tidy 2 hours, 9 minutes, thanks to Patrick Wisdom's tiebreaking three-run homer in the fifth inning.

The nightcap lasted exactly twice as long—4:18. McMahon hit a high drive to left field off Jake Jewell (0-2) for his 19th homer. Rodgers, who hit a two-run homer in the first inning, ripped his double down the left-field line.

Ben Bowden (3-2), the eighth of nine Colorado pitchers, got four outs for the win.

Connor Joe hit his first career grand slam in the fourth inning for Colorado.

In the opener, Wisdom took Austin Gomber (9-8) deep to left.

Reliever Codi Heuer (5-2) got four outs for the win. Adam Morgan pitched a perfect seventh for his first save.

## Blue Jays 3, White Sox 1

In Toronto, Alejandro Kirk broke a tie with an RBI single in the eighth inning and Toronto beat Chicago.

After Blue Jays starter Robbie Ray matched his career high by striking out 14 over seven innings, Tim Mayza (4-1) worked a perfect eighth and Jordan Romano finished for his 13th save in 14 chances.

White Sox left-hander Aar-

on Bummer (2-5) struck out the first two batters he faced in the eighth before giving up singles to Teoscar Hernández, pinch-hitter Breyvic Valera, and Kirk.

AL Central-leading Chicago lost for the fourth time in five games.

## Twins 9, Red Sox 6, 10 innings

In Boston, Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer to lead off the 10th after Boston rallied from a four-run deficit to send the game into extra innings, and Jake Cave added a three-run shot for Minnesota.

Donaldson and Jorge Polanco homered for the second straight game, and Miguel Sanó hit a 495-foot homer that is the longest in the majors this year and one of the longest in the history of Fenway Park.

Minnesota led 4-0 before Boston scored one in the seventh, one in the eighth, and then tied it on Kyle Schwarber's two-run homer off Alex Colomé (4-4) in the ninth inning.

Hansel Robles (3-5) gave up Donaldson's game-winner.

## Indians 7, Rangers 2

In Cleveland, Franmil Reyes drove a 451-foot home run into the left field bleachers, one of four homers by Cleveland against Texas.

Reyes' blast off Wes Benjamin in the seventh landed about two-thirds of the way up the bleachers and was his 23rd of the season.

Yu Chang homered for the second straight game and drove in two runs. Oscar Mercado and Austin Hedges also homered off Jake Latz (0-1), who gave up three home runs in his major league debut.

Zach Plesac (8-4) dodged trouble in each of the first five innings before giving up Jason Martin's two-run homer in the

sixth that cut Cleveland's lead to 3-2.

## Marlins 4, Nationals 3, 10 innings

In Miami, Jorge Alfaro singled with the bases loaded in the 10th inning and Miami beat Washington to snap an eight-game skid.

Right fielder Jesús Sánchez threw out automatic runner Carter Kieboom at home plate as he attempted to score from second on Riley Adams' single in the top of the 10th.

Sánchez was placed on second base to begin the bottom half and advanced to third on Lewis Brinson's sacrifice bunt against reliever Kyle Finnegan (4-5). Brian Anderson and Isan Díaz were intentionally walked before Alfaro's smash got past shortstop Alcides Escobar into center field.

Dylan Floro (5-4) pitched the 10th for the Marlins, who won for the first time since defeating the Chicago Cubs 4-1 on Aug. 15.

Josh Bell and Yadiel Hernández homered for Washington.

## Diamondbacks 5, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Carson Kelly and Pavin Smith homered and Arizona rallied against Pittsburgh's bullpen.

Kelly's homer came in the seventh against Pittsburgh reliever Anthony Banda (2-1) to give the Diamondbacks the lead for good. Smith took Nick Mears deep in the sixth.

Smith walked to lead off the eighth, Josh VanMeter singled and David Peralta drove them both in with a double to left off Kyle Keller.

Six Arizona receivers combined to keep the Pirates off the board, including Brett de Geus (3-2). Tyler Clippard worked around a leadoff double in the ninth for his fifth save of the season.

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# T-wolves seal deal with Grizzlies for ace defender Beverley

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—The Minnesota Timberwolves finalized their acquisition of ace defender Patrick Beverley, sending 2019 first-round draft pick Jarrett Culver and backup forward Juancho Hernangómez to the Memphis Grizzlies on Wednesday.

The trade was agreed to in principle last week, after the Grizzlies got the 33-year-old Beverley along with veteran guard Rajon Rondo and young center Daniel Oturu from the Los Angeles Clippers for versatile guard Eric Bledsoe.

Beverley will bring feistiness and experience to a Timberwolves team short on both attributes. He averaged 7.5 points, 3.2 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 22.5 minutes last season for the Clippers, shooting 39.7% from 3-point range.

Beverley has three NBA All-Defensive team selections on his resume, first team in 2016-17 and second team in 2013-14 with Houston and second team in 2019-20 with the Clippers. Beverley, who has appeared in 59 career playoff games, will miss the season opener as punishment for shoving Phoenix star Chris Paul in the back during Game 6 of the Western Conference finals between the Clippers and Suns. Beverley drew a technical foul and was ejected.

Beverley is in the final year of his contract, set to make about \$14.3 million.



In this May 13, 2021, file photo, Los Angeles Clippers guard Patrick Beverley (21) brings the ball up court against the Charlotte Hornets during an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C. AP

The only other significant move made this summer by Timberwolves president of basketball operations Gersson Rosas was to trade veteran point guard Ricky Rubio to Cleveland for small forward Taurean Prince, cash and a

second-round pick in 2022.

Culver was the first draft choice on the resume for Rosas. The former Texas Tech standout was picked by the Suns at No. 6 overall in 2019 for the Timberwolves and sent to Minnesota in a pre-arranged

deal that shipped Dario Saric to Phoenix. The Suns went with Cameron Johnson, who was selected No. 11 overall for them by the Wolves.

The 6-foot-6 guard Culver never got comfortable in his two seasons in Minnesota,

albeit a tenure interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. He averaged 7.8 points, 3.3 rebounds, 1.4 assists and 20.7 minutes in 97 games. His playing time decrease in his second year.

Hernangómez needed a

fresh start, too, after averaging 8.4 points, 4.7 rebounds and 19.9 minutes in 66 games. He suffered a shoulder injury during the pre-Olympic training with Spain's national team, which got into a dispute with Rosas over whether Hernangómez had medical clearance to play in Tokyo. Rosas ultimately blocked his participation in the Olympics.

## Van Exel returns to Atlanta Hawks as assistant coach

**ATLANTA** (AP)—Nick Van Exel has returned to the Atlanta Hawks, joining Nate McMillan's staff as an assistant coach.

Van Exel spent the last two years as a scout with the Dallas Mavericks. The Hawks announced his hiring Wednesday, bringing back a former NBA All-Star who served as a player development instructor for Atlanta from 2010-12.

"Since his playing career ended, Nick has been very successful in helping develop young guards for the teams he's worked with, including several that have turned into all-stars," said McMillan, who led the Hawks to the Eastern Conference final last season after taking over as interim coach.

The Hawks are led by 22-year-old point guard Trae Young, who is heading into his fourth season. They also have young swingmen De'Andre Hunter, Kevin Huerter and Cam Reddish, as well as a pair of second-round picks they hope will develop into solid NBA guards, Skylar Mays and Sharife Cooper.

Van Exel will get a chance to work with that promising group under McMillan, who was retained as the permanent coach after the Hawks' improbable playoff run. "We feel he'll be a great addition helping our young core guards continue to progress," McMillan said.

Van Exel has previous coaching experience with the Memphis Grizzlies and Milwaukee Bucks. He also was a head coach for one season in the NBA G League and spent a year as an assistant at Texas Southern University.

Over a 13-year playing career in the NBA, Van Exel played with six teams. He earned a spot in the 1998 All-Star Game while with the Los Angeles Lakers.

# ESPN taking Rachel Nichols off its NBA programming

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—ESPN is canceling Rachel Nichols' show, "The Jump," and pulling her off NBA programming.

David Roberts, who was named last week to oversee the network's NBA coverage, said in a statement that "we mutually agreed that this approach regarding our NBA coverage was best for all concerned."

"Rachel is an excellent reporter, host and journalist, and we thank her for her many contributions to our NBA content," Roberts said.

Nichols also confirmed the move on her Instagram page. Sports Business Journal was the first to report it.

Nichols posted: "Got to create a whole show and spend five years hanging out with some of my favorite people talking about one my favorite things. An eternal thank you to our amazing producers & crew—'The Jump' was never built to last forever but it sure was fun. More to come..."

ESPN will have a new daily NBA show that will premiere sometime before the regular season begins in October. Roberts also will be responsible



In this July 20, 2021, file photo, ESPN reporter Rachel Nichols walks on the court after Game 6 of basketball's NBA Finals between the Milwaukee Bucks and Phoenix Suns in Milwaukee. AP

ble for revamping and finding a host for the network's "NBA Countdown" show with Maria Taylor's departure to NBC.

Nichols, who has more than a year remaining on her contract, has been an integral part of ESPN's NBA coverage since she returned to the network in 2016. "The Jump" started in February that year

and went from airing only during the season to a nearly year-round fixture. She also was the sideline reporter for most of ESPN's top national games this season.

Nichols came under fire, though, after a report by The New York Times on July 4 detailed critical comments she made about Taylor.

Nichols, who is white, made the comments last year when she learned Taylor, who is Black, would lead the network's studio show instead of her during the league's restart at Walt Disney World.

In a phone conversation that was accidentally recorded and obtained by the newspaper, Nichols said: "I wish Maria

Taylor all the success in the world—she covers football, she covers basketball. If you need to give her more things to do because you are feeling pressure about your crappy longtime record on diversity—which, by the way, I know personally from the female side of it—like, go for it. Just find it somewhere else. You are not going to find it from me or taking my thing away."

The Times reported that the show's crew was angry with Nichols, who apologized while hosting "The Jump" on July 5. The report also came less than three weeks before Taylor's contract was set to expire with ESPN and after she rejected an extension.

ESPN replaced Nichols with Malika Andrews as its sideline reporter for the NBA Finals following the report. The 26-year-old Andrews, who hosted "The Jump" last week while Nichols was on vacation, is expected to have a prominent role in the network's coverage.

Nichols continued to host "The Jump" onsite during the finals. She was also onsite during the recently concluded NBA Summer League in Las Vegas.



# Soriano tops Budweiser Battle of the Champions

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jerry Soriano engineered the mother of comebacks in the Budweiser Battle of the Champions billiards tournament last Saturday at the New Bamboo Bar in the Saipan Las Vegas Resort along Middle Road.

The 50-year-old native of Mexico, Pampanga in the Philippines defeated Ray Matsunaga twice in the championship round to win the inaugural tournament sponsored by Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc.

Soriano started off his campaign on the wrong foot after a loss to Rowell "Cobra" Mariano relegated him to the loser's bracket. With one loss separating him from elimination, he began his comeback

with a victory over Ben Norita. He made it two in a row after disposing of Jess Fariñas before advancing to the loser's bracket semifinals with a win over Randy David.

In the bottom Final Four, Soriano made it four straight triumphs after beating his first-round tormentor Mariano. He then amazingly made it to the winner's bracket finals with Jess Guerra, who he also beat.

Soriano then surprised Matsunaga in Game 1 of the championship round to negate his twice-to-beat advantage. He then pulled out all the stops in Game 2 to complete his improbable run to the Budweiser Battle of Champions title.

"There was a lot of luck involved in my victory. I want to thank Saipan Vegas that fortunately hasn't gotten tired supporting the sport of billiards and



Jerry Soriano, center, won the Budweiser Battle of the Champions billiards tournament last Saturday at the New Bamboo Bar in the Saipan Las Vegas Resort along Middle Road. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

pool players on the island. Also thanked New Bamboo Bar for staging these tournaments.

It was a sorry for Matsunaga who zoomed to three straight wins before being

stopped dead on his tracks by a rampaging Soriano. He first won against Fel Kalen to get

out of the first round and in the second round, he defeated Lito Pangilinan to advance to the winner's bracket semifinals. In the semis, he dropped Mariano to the loser's bracket and then made it to the championship round and the all-important twice-to-advance when he got the better of Cesar Sangalang, who wound up in third place. The Top 3 got Budweiser T-shirts and other in-kind prizes.

A total of 16 pool masters took part in the Budweiser Battle of the Champions billiards tournament at the New Bamboo Bar. It will culminate with the yearend Battle of Champions tournament where \$2,000 in cash prizes will be at stake. For more information about the once-in-45 days tournament, call Soriano at 588-1971.

## NFL players experiment with 'Guardian Caps' to protect heads



**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (AP)—For Carolina Panthers rookie offensive lineman Brady Christensen any chance to protect his brain is a no-brainer—even if he thinks he may look a little goofy doing so.

That's why Christensen is among a growing number of NFL players taking advantage of the new "Guardian Caps," a soft-shell cover that retrofits to the top of the helmet to reduce impact and limit head injuries.

Sure, it's a little strange at first, like wearing a small pillow on top of your head.

But NFL players seem to be

taking to it at practice.

"Anything to protect my brain a little bit more, I'm all in," Christensen said. "I want to remember my kids' names when I'm 50."

The Jacksonville Jaguars first experimented with the Guardian Caps in practice last year after the product received temporary approval from the NFL and the NFL Players Association. This year, 23 teams purchased the caps before the season for players to try out and five are actively using them: the Panthers, Bills, Dolphins, Bears and Rams. More than 100 players, mostly linemen, are using the caps,

according to Jeff Miller, the NFL's executive vice president of communications for public affairs and policy.

"We are always on the lookout for ways to make the game safer for our players," Miller said. "And will explore anything that will improve the health and safety of our athletes. ... This will dampen the force of some of those hits that they take to the helmet."

It's not hard to notice them.

Buffalo Bills center Mitch Morse joked that when he first tried on the cap he felt like a character in a Halo video game.

"You got people giving you hell, your family being like

'what the hell is this?'" Morse said with a laugh.

Morse said at first his neck was a little sore from wearing the caps, but he's grown to like the added protection.

"It's something that I'm very comfortable with and then we tried it on and, of course, we gave each other hell for how it looks," Morse said. "But then after one practice, I looked at (Bills defensive lineman) Justin Zimmer, I'm like 'man, I know we were getting after it, and I didn't feel anything.'"

Through extensive testing at the Biocore laboratories of Charlottesville, Virginia, the NFL believes the caps reduce

the severity of impact blows to the head by about 10%.

Currently, more than 200 colleges are using them, including all top five ranked teams in the country. More than 1,500 high schools and 500 youth programs also use the caps to protect their players and there are currently more than 100,000 Guardian Caps in the market today.

The caps used by NFL players weigh about 11 ounces, about 4 ounces heavier than those used by college and high school players simply because professional athletes are generally bigger. Bills defensive tackle Ed Oliver said he tried

out the caps at the University of Houston, and jumped at the chance to wear the device again at the NFL level.

"You really don't feel it," Oliver said. "The only thing that's weird is when you watch film they tend to slide up and it looks crazy on film. Other than that they aren't bad."

Guardian Innovations, the makers of the caps, won the inaugural NFL HeadHealth-TECH Challenge in 2017, a competition funded by the NFL to encourage innovations in equipment. This led to continued discussions and testing with NFL and NFL Players Association engineering consultants.

## COLIN

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in Europe will be our standard," he said.

Baudinet of Cook Islands and Matthew Stubbings of Papua New Guinea were originally slated to join Sinclair in Tay Ninh, Vietnam with the former serving as playing captain.

Sinclair, who is currently ranked No. 718 in the ATP Tour singles, also hopes to see

action in a couple of tournaments before representing Pacific Oceania in the Davis Cup competition in Jordan.

"I'm hoping to play a few more tournaments in Belgium and Czech Republic before going to play Davis Cup in Jordan. We're super excited and are hoping to play some good tennis and have a shot at promotion to Group II."

As far as next year's 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific

Mini Games is concerned, Sinclair said he will definitely come home to represent his birthplace in the quadrennial event the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever.

"Yes I'm planning on playing on Saipan next year," he said.

Sinclair's confirmation was music to the ears of CNMI National Tennis Team coach Jeff Race.

"He's the best we've got and if he's healthy and the

Games actually happen then Colin will lead us to some medals," he said.

Race said he hopes Baudinet though would still be able to represent Pacific Oceania in Jordan. For many years, Race served as captain of the Pacific Oceania Davis Cup team and one of the players under his wing was Baudinet.

"Brett has tons of Davis Cup experience and he is a very enthusiastic individual.

I think he will do a great job. He holds some worldwide Davis Cup records possibly as he played 19 years on the team."

Aside from Pacific Oceania, other teams competing in Asia/Oceania III include Hong Kong, China, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Syria, and Vietnam. Three teams will advance from Asia/Oceania Group III to contest the 2022 World Group II playoffs.

## KWON

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missioner Ethan Kwon.

He also admitted that more than 12 teams actually wanted to take part in the men's tournament that started last week at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

"A lot more teams wanted to join actually. It started only through word of mouth that

we were planning a men's league and within those first two couple of months I already got calls from 6-8 teams wanting to join. Unfortunately we had to refuse some teams from coming in just because we don't have too many games because we're also planning to open a master's tournament so we want to keep it short," said Kwon.

When asked why RBA decided to organize a tournament instead of a full-blown basketball league, the tournament coordinator said it all boils down to logistics.

"It's also a fundraising tournament as we want to buy shooting machines. A lot of stuff comes with running a league and it means a lot more fees, a lot more refer-

ees, more officials, and more costs," he said.

The Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament resumes tonight with a doubleheader. The first game at 6pm will be a certified barnburner with undefeated teams The Game and Blue Haus duking it out. The 7pm second game will then have Ol'Aces squaring off against Socho 2.

The Saturday four-game schedule will see Pacific Auto matching up with the San Antonio Sixers at 1pm. It will be followed by 2:30pm game between OG Rollers and Jacob's Bakeshop & Barbecue. K2 Ballers will then suit up against GMS/IKKI (Bolaboisi) at 4pm, followed by the 7pm game between Marianas Dental Center and Socho 1.

## AG

From Page 24

break to win the June tourney. Kautz recorded his net 68 built around a gross of 80. The

12-handicapper had a 39 in the first nine holes and a 41 in the final nine holes.

Veteran golfer Nick Sablan was third for the June tourney. This, after the former CNMI

national golf team member shot a net of 70. The 9-handicapper fired a 40 in the front nine before coming away with a 39 in the back nine.

Manibusan now joins pre-

vious SGA's 2021 Ace of the Month winners Das Krishnan (January), Joe I. Sablan (February), Frances M. Sablan (March), Rick Kautz (April), and Tony Benavente (May).

The next SGA Ace of the Month Tournament for July 2021 is at the Laolao Golf & Resort this coming Sunday, Aug. 29. Tee time is set at 9:30am with a show time of 9am.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	79	48	.622	
New York	74	52	.587	4 1/2
Boston	72	56	.563	7 1/2
Toronto	66	59	.528	12
Baltimore	39	86	.312	39

#### Central Division

Chicago	73	55	.570	
Cleveland	62	62	.500	9
Detroit	61	67	.477	12
Kansas City	56	70	.444	16
Minnesota	55	71	.437	17

#### West Division

Houston	75	52	.591	
Oakland	70	57	.551	5
Seattle	69	58	.543	6
Los Angeles	63	65	.492	12 1/2
Texas	44	82	.349	30 1/2

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	68	58	.540	
Philadelphia	63	63	.500	5
New York	61	65	.484	7
Washington	54	71	.432	13 1/2
Miami	52	75	.409	16 1/2

#### Central Division

Milwaukee	78	49	.614	
Cincinnati	69	59	.539	9 1/2
St. Louis	64	61	.512	13
Chicago	56	73	.434	23
Pittsburgh	46	81	.362	32

#### West Division

San Francisco	82	44	.651	
Los Angeles	79	47	.627	3
San Diego	68	59	.535	14 1/2
Colorado	58	69	.457	24 1/2
Arizona	43	85	.336	40

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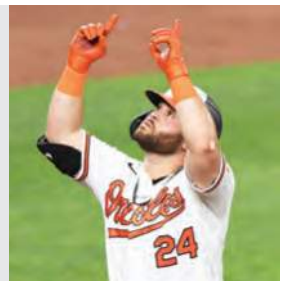
## Soriano tops Budweiser Battle of the Champions

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

## Orioles end 19-game skid by getting past Ohtani, Angels

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021

# Colin, Pacific Oceania team will now play in Jordan

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Pacific Games gold medalist Colin Sinclair and the rest of his Pacific Oceania teammates will now be playing in Amman, Jordan where the Davis Cup by Rakuten Asia/Oceania Group III Event has been relocated this coming September.

The Pacific Oceania team was originally set to compete last August in Vietnam, but it was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions in the country. The new Davis Cup Asia/Oceania Group III Event will now start on Monday, Sept. 13, in the Middle East country.

Sinclair said he's looking forward to suiting up for Pacific Oceania anew in the Davis Cup in Amman.

"We're just finalizing travel plans now. Our team is looking a bit different than two years ago. We have two new young guys Clement [Mainguy] and Heimanarii [Lai San]," he said

in a social media message to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The 6'2" Sinclair said while his teammates are set, who will skipper the Pacific Oceania team come September is still up in the air.

"We're hoping our captain Brett Baudinet will make it

but he and his wife are expecting the birth of their

second son around the same time so we'll know within the week where he'll be able to make it. Also, our coach Rob [Krause] is stuck on Fiji so Richard Breen who is traveling with his daughter Saoirse

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The CNMI's Colin Sinclair, seen here in a file photo, and the rest of his Pacific Oceania team are preparing for the Davis Cup by Rakuten Asia/Oceania Group III Event set in Amman, Jordan this coming September. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Attorney General Edward Manibusan, seen here in a file photo, won the Saipan Golfers Association June Ace of the Month Tournament last June 27 at the Coral Ocean Resort golf course. SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## AG Manibusan is SGA June Ace

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Attorney General Edward Manibusan advanced to the season-ending Saipan Golfers Association Ace of Aces Tournament after topping the club's June Ace of the Month Tournament last June 27 at the Coral Ocean Resort golf course.

The highest-ranking law enforcement officer of the islands posted the lowest

score of the day after shooting a net 68. Manibusan started out strong by firing an even par 36 in the front nine. He struggled a bit in the back nine, shooting a 5-over par 41. Minus his 9 handicap, he came away with the net 68.

Manibusan actually finished tied with eventual runner-up Rick Kautz as both men finished with an identical score of net 68. However, Manibusan beat Kautz in a scorecard tie-

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## Kwon: RBA also wants to showcase men's teams

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Marianas Dental Center will take on Socho 1 tomorrow as it hopes to bounce back from last Sunday's loss to Blue Haus in the Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament at the Koberville Gymnasium. MARK RABAGO



Aside from raising funds to purchase shooting machines, NMI Rollers Basketball Association is also holding the Inaugural NMI Rollers Men's Basketball Tournament so that its older players who already graduated from its youth division can finally play.

"It really came from our men's division. Cause we do have a men's division and they've been practicing for about a year. We also have 19-and-under boys [team] and they can no longer play for our youth teams anymore. They got promoted and we had to open something for them. A lot of them are growing up and starting to work and moving to the men's division. Their skill level is too high for our boys and they needed something to do as they've been practicing for so long and they need something to showcase their game," said tournament com-

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